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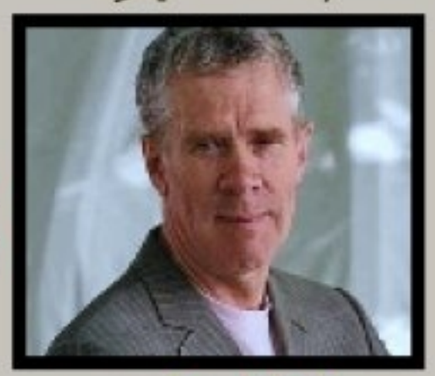
Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017 | High -3°C/Low -7°C Partly cloudy

Remembering
Stuart McLean
1948—2017



metroLIFE

MEET A TRULY NEW VOICE

And why it's a good step toward a more diverse city council

metroNEWS

Neethan Shan will represent Ward 42, Scarborough-Rouge River. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bunker business is booming

ANXIETY

Presidency has many preparing for end of days

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

There may be a silver lining to that mushroom cloud of anxiety over Donald Trump.

Business is booming for some local retailers who specialize in survivalist, or so-called "prepper," supplies.

Robert Studer, who runs the Oshawa-based online store Survival Central, estimates there's been a 25 per cent increase in orders for items like generators and bulk freeze- dried food since November.

The Trump bump is mostly for orders coming in from the U.S., but there are some new Canadian customers in the mix, Studer said.

"There's definitely a heightened sense of dread. The uncertainty is causing people to sit there and say, 'OK, well what can I do for my family to prepare?'"

There have been other signs that fears of a Trumpocalypse, whatever that might entail, are causing ripples of prepper-like behaviour across North America.

Earlier this month, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported a spike in orders for solid-steel bomb shelters.

Eric Pinkerton, who runs the online store Rapid Survival, said he's definitely seen a jump in customers from the U.S., which he attributes "directly to Trump" and the low Canadian dollar.

Pinkerton, who's based in Orillia, sells everything from 72-hour survival kits to gas masks. Sales of radios and water-purification supplies have surged the most, he said.

Toronto's Eric Somerville, who runs a tongue-in-cheek Zombie Survival Camp for adults, has even seen more registrations this year.

He's heard more than a few jokes that the camp needs a new name.

"There's been a few references to the Trump Presidency and whether or not we'll rebrand as a Trump survival camp," he said with a laugh.

Overall, the uncertain times are also causing a shift in attitudes, Studer said. Preppers are less and less categorized as a fringe group consumed with building underground bunkers.

"It is becoming more mainstream, going back to our grandparent's mentality where you have something just in case something goes wrong," he said.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Canadian research says labels inaccurate on amount of melatonin hormones in supplements.

Non-alcoholic craft beer keeps good times flowing

BUSINESS

And it's all about the camaraderie, founder says

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Sober Torontonians can still enjoy craft beer thanks to a new local business.

When Ted Fleming was diagnosed with Crohns disease in 2005, doctors told him he should no longer drink, and he wanted to find a solution.

"The problem was, I just enjoyed my beer and its taste," said Fleming, an engineering graduate from Queen's University. "But more than anything, I enjoyed the camaraderie it brought around friends and family. A lot of people take that for granted until it's taken away."

To fill that void he decided to launch Premium Near Beer, a company he believes is the first in North American alcohol-free craft beer. His store — which also serves as an online marketplace — carries more than 20 types of beer in addition to non-alcoholic wine, ciders, rum and spirits, most of which are imported from Europe.

Premium Near Beer founder Ted Fleming is set to launch his own non-alcoholic beer production brand, Partake Brewing.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

By next month, he's hoping to launch his own production under the Partake Brewing brand. He sees his venture as an important addition to the city's growing craft beer scene.

"Pretty much every bar in Europe serves non-alcoholic beer, not just in bottle but also available on draught," he said, noting Toronto's next logical step is to catch up.

> **It's becoming a trend.**
> Ted Fleming

Most of his clients are older individuals whose medical conditions forced them into dieting, but other customers include religious abstainees and pregnant women.

"It's becoming a trend," he said.

He adds, "These are people who want to socialize and be able to drive home, go to their business meetings and continue to be productive after lunch."

FIRE

Shops hit hard by blaze

It was a rotten Valentine's Day for businesses near the six-alarm blaze at the historic Badminton and Racquet Club of Toronto.

Especially hard hit were the flower and card shops.

"The two days of Valentine's Day take care of the month of February," said The Papery owner Marla Freedland.

Firefighters contained the fire in the evening.

Across the street, Eden Flower Shop was also feeling the effects of the fire.

Owner Pam Cho was facing the pressure of selling unsold flowers off before she had to throw them out.

The club's parking lot was also flooded as water from the firefighters' hoses poured from the building's front doors.

The cause of the fire wasn't clear as of yesterday, nor was the location where the fire started and the cost of damage.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Bullet necklace explodes

A man is recovering after he shot himself in the leg while making a necklace out of a bullet.

Durham Regional Police say the man tried to pull apart a bullet. The bullet ignited, causing an explosion and drove the bullet into the man's thigh. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HUDSON'S BAY

Simon Gooding-Townsend, a fourth-year law student at the University of Toronto, is among local students spearheading the effort to challenge the Safe Third Country Agreement. EDUARDO LIMA/ METRO

Law students speak out on refugee issues

METRO FOCUS ON ACTIVISM!

'No place for Islamophobia in Canadian society'

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Count law students at Canadian universities among the growing list of groups pressuring the federal government to reconsider its pact with the United States on the treatment of refugee claimants.

Hundreds of students have signed a two-page letter that was delivered to the House of Commons Wednesday. The letter calls for the immediate suspension of the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, which has drawn sharp criticism from refugee advocates in light of Donald Trump's controversial immigration policies.

"There is no place for Islamophobia in Canadian society nor in its policies," reads the letter in reference to the president's temporary travel ban on citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. These actions "represent and mobilize bigotry, xenophobia and fear-mongering that Canada simply cannot support."

The effort follows a recent nationwide research-a-thon that prepared the legal groundwork for a potential court challenge to the agreement.

Simon Gooding-Townsend, a fourth-year law student at the University of Toronto, said the issue is personal to a lot of students whose parents came to Canada as refugees, and they know they wouldn't be here under this agreement.

"Canada has a reputation of a safe and welcoming country, and we should live up to that expectation," he said. There's also a growing concern of asylum seekers putting their lives at risk as they try to cross the borders illegally, he added.

Hundreds of refugee claimants have attempted to enter Canadian borders in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba since Donald Trump was elected president. Some were found suffering from frostbite.

It is important to challenge existing laws that don't respect Canadian values of human rights and diversity, said Kim Veller, a student at York University's Osgoode Law School.

"An immigration system that discriminates against people of colour and Muslims is morally wrong and in direct contradiction with our constitution," she said.

SUPPORTERS

The list of supporters calling to scrap the U.S.-Canada agreement for refugee claimants includes: law professors, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Refugee Council, Amnesty International Canada, and Canadian Civil Liberties Association among others.

TRADE

Wynne's turn to woo U.S. leaders

Premier Kathleen Wynne is going on a charm offensive with U.S. governors to keep trade flowing stateside in the new protectionist Trump era.

Wynne, who met with Canada's ambassador to Washington David MacNaughton on Wednesday at Queen's Park, said relations with American states are on the front-burner.

The premier said she would travel to the National Governors Association meeting in Rhode Island for that July 13-16 summit of state leaders.

In October, she and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder will co-host a summit of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence governors and premiers in Detroit and Windsor.

"Ontario-U.S. trade is critical for our businesses and our workers," Wynne said, noting each day there is more than $1 billion of trade between the province and American states.

"Last month I sent letters to the 27 governors of states that rank Ontario as a top customer, underlining the positive impact our trade creates for U.S. and Canadian workers," she added.

While the premier had actively opposed President Donald Trump's candidacy during the U.S. election in November, she has maintained close ties with Snyder and other border-state governors because 80 per cent of Ontario trade is with the U.S.

MacNaughton — principal secretary to former premier Dalton McGuinty more than a decade ago — welcomed Wynne's help in promoting trade. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto DIGEST

PEARSON AIRPORT

Cocaine found on plane

The Canada Border Services Agency says it has seized seven kilograms of suspected cocaine from the bottom of food trolleys on an airplane.

The agency says it made the discovery earlier this month while carrying out a routine inspection of an aircraft landing at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Ontario funds 15 projects

Ontario is putting $1.8 million toward 15 pilot projects aimed at improving police response to sexual violence.

The projects and funding will span two years and are part of the Liberal government's action plan to end sexual violence and harassment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Surgical equipment stolen

Police say three men broke into the Toronto Western Hospital on Saturday afternoon and made off with about $1.2 million in endoscopic and surgical equipment including gastroscopes and colonoscopes.

Investigators say the three men forced their way into a surgical area on the fourth floor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCHOOL STAFF

Contracts extended

Ontario school support staff represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees have ratified a contract extension until Aug. 31, 2019 that gives them four per cent raises.

The contracts had been set to expire this August.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOODY Call

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Transit museum back on the rails

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Artifacts would drive interest in history, says councillor

TTC customers riding outdated streetcars may sometimes feel like they're stuck in a transit museum, but one city councillor is reviving the idea of creating an official one.

Coun. Joe Mihevc, who sits on the TTC board, has added an item to next Tuesday's board meeting requesting that the agency look into creating a "TTC transit museum."

"If you look at the big transportation authorities globally, they all have transportation museums," Mihevc said in an interview. He argued that showcasing the TTC's heritage would help the public connect with the city's history and develop "an appreciation and a love for public transit."

Mihevc's motion calls for the board to create a committee made up of commission staff and other interested parties to explore the feasibility of the project. Mihevc's goal is to have the institution set up in time for the TTC's 100th anniversary in 2021.

Chris Prentice, president of the Canadian Transit Heritage Foundation, called the idea of a TTC museum "fantastic" and "long overdue."

Not everyone is a fan of the proposal, however. Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, who also sits on the TTC board, said he won't support it.

"We have far more important things to deal with," he said. "I think the riding public believes that we should focus our attention on service and improving and expanding our transit service rather than dealing with a non-priority (such as a museum)."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Repairs to the streetcar line at Bay and Wellington in May 1925.
CONTRIBUTED

REAL ESTATE

Market 'dangerously' overheating: Expert

An unprecedented imbalance between the supply and the demand for Toronto-area homes is exerting a disproportionate impact on the national picture, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA).

Its chief economist Gregory Klump said Wednesday that he doesn't see that changing any time soon, although one bank economist suggested that the Toronto and area market may be "dangerously" overheated.

Its report showed dollar volume of Greater Toronto residential property sales rose 35.6 per cent year over year in January, compared to a 2.1 per cent national average rise, which was dragged down by a 51.1 per cent decline in Greater Vancouver.

But there are different takes on how concerning that is.

Bank of Montreal chief economist Doug Porter described the Toronto region, including cities surrounding it, as being in a "housing bubble," in a note to investors.

"Toronto and any city that is remotely within commuting distance are overheating, and perhaps dangerously so," Porter wrote.

The average price for what is considered a "benchmark" home in Toronto is up 22.6 per cent from a year earlier, according to CREA. Kitchener-Waterloo, Barrie and Brantford are all feeling the city spillover, said CREA.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS

35.6%

Greater Toronto residential property sales rose by this amount from 2016-2017.

2.1%

The national average increase in price was this much lower percentage.

51.1%

The national mark was weighed down by a 51.1 per cent decline in the Greater Vancouver area's market.

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NEW

METROEXPLAINS

Dude, where's my streetcar?

1/40

Only one streetcar has been delivered this year, but the second is due next week.

Story: David Hains; Graphic: Jason Logan

Toronto is only scheduled to receive four new streetcars by the end of April, but TTC spokesperson Brad Ross tells Metro the transit commission is "confident" manufacturer Bombardier will meet its goals. There will, however, be a wait: more than half of the city's 2017 streetcars are due after October.

Follow Metro's Dude, Where's my Streetcar? for all your Bombardier tracking needs.

Supergood superfood café

Holistic nutritionist Kate Taylor Martin opens Nutbar eatery to make healthy eating a piece of cake.

MARY WALES FOR METRO

Under the motto "feel good here," the new Nutbar café is offering customers snacks and beverages branded as superfood.

It's a fitting theme for the Summerhill eatery owned by Kate Taylor Martin, a holistic nutritionist.

"We need to take our health into our own hands, and a lot of that starts with the food we are eating," she said. "Food can have a big impact on our overall health and wellbeing."

> **We need to take health into our own hands.**
> Kate Taylor Martin

Taylor Martin, who has a background in public relations and marketing, was working in hospital communications department when she got the urge to do something to counteract high rates of diet-related illnesses.

While pursuing her holistic nutrition studies, she noticed that even though Toronto has amazing coffee shops and establishments doing "great things" with specialty coffees, it was a challenge to get something to eat alongside a hot pick-me-up.

"That was the big motivation behind the concept," she said.

The new café boasts a menu consisting of superfood balls — with variations like cookie dough and key lime pie — bars, smoothies, colourful toasts with a range of spreads and vegetables made with local multigrain bread.

Then there's a wide variety of warm drinks that use a custom in-house blend of nutmilk that's made fresh every day and was created to pair well with coffee. Almost all of the ingredients used at the café are certified organic.

Taylor Martin sees eating whole foods as important for healthy living and optimal nutrition. "Eating foods in their most natural form is the best guide to eating well," she said.

Savoury Toast Multigrain bread smeared with housemade cashew spread and topped with watermelon radish and black sesame seeds.

Pie balls

They taste like chocolate, cookie dough and key lime pie but they're actually packed with nutritious ingredients

Turmeric Latte

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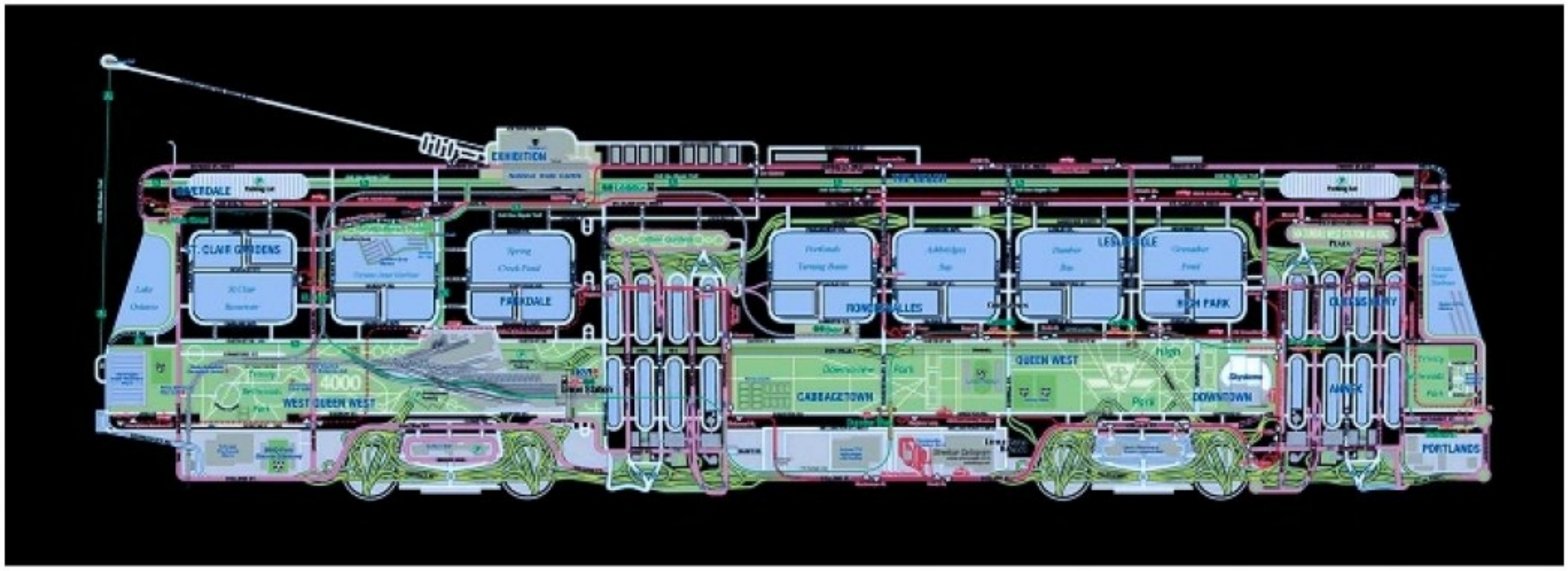
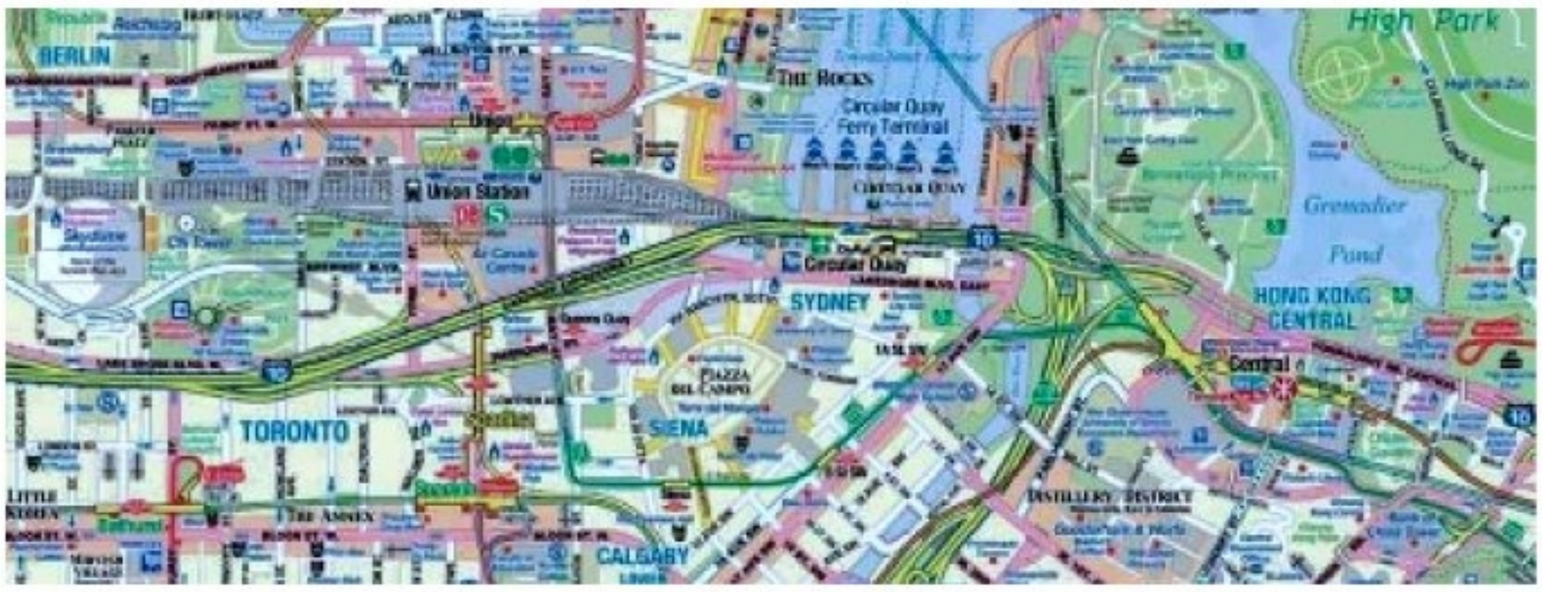
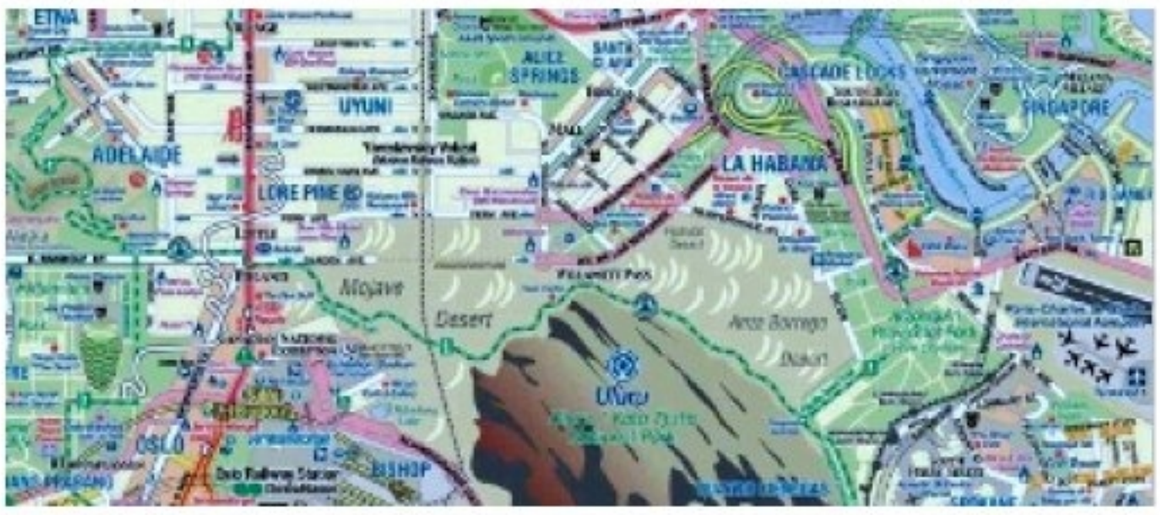


METRO ARTIST TAKE

Mapping your memories

An impossible map hangs on Andrew Alfred-Duggan's wall. From a distance, it's familiar, the colour and markings akin to your standard city map. But if the scale is to be believed, Toronto's Union Station is a stop away from Paris' Abbesses metro station and Collingwood looks out over Palmerston Island, a coral atoll in the midst of the Pacific Ocean. ANDREW SEALE/FOR METRO





ABOUT THIS SERIES **Artists can change the way we interact with the world around us** by offering new takes on the ordinary. Metro is sharing some of the work that's happening around Toronto. Send your visual stories to jason.logan@metronews.ca

Turning maps into custom art

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to anyone except me and my wife because it's all our places mixed together; a journal on a piece of paper," explains Alfred-Duggan, from his map-riddled apartment in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighbourhood. "Place, it's everything."

After 15 years travelling around the world as a professional cartographer, intimately studying and designing maps of 80 cities, the demise of the paper mapmaking industry caught up to Alfred-Duggan in 2012.

But an invitation by a friend to contribute to an installation in the Distillery District caused him to reflect on the role of place in our lives. Although he didn't consider himself an artist at the time, Alfred-Duggan decided to tweak a map of Manhattan, dropping the Forbidden City of Beijing where Central Park would be.

"My friend said, 'You should do this for people,' " recalls Alfred-Duggan.

So, he did.

Since then the cartographer and artist has been taking commissions for Lifemaps, tirelessly researched, peculiar maps that combine 10 of clients' favourite places, landmarks and points of interest.

He's had high-profile clients like Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar: "All national parks and, of course, space," says Alfred-Duggan.

In a sense, the maps end up being your own private utopia but they also change the way you see the world you live in, the role of place in your life, he explains.

"There's a silver lining to where you live and if it seems mundane, just dig a little bit and you'll find something."

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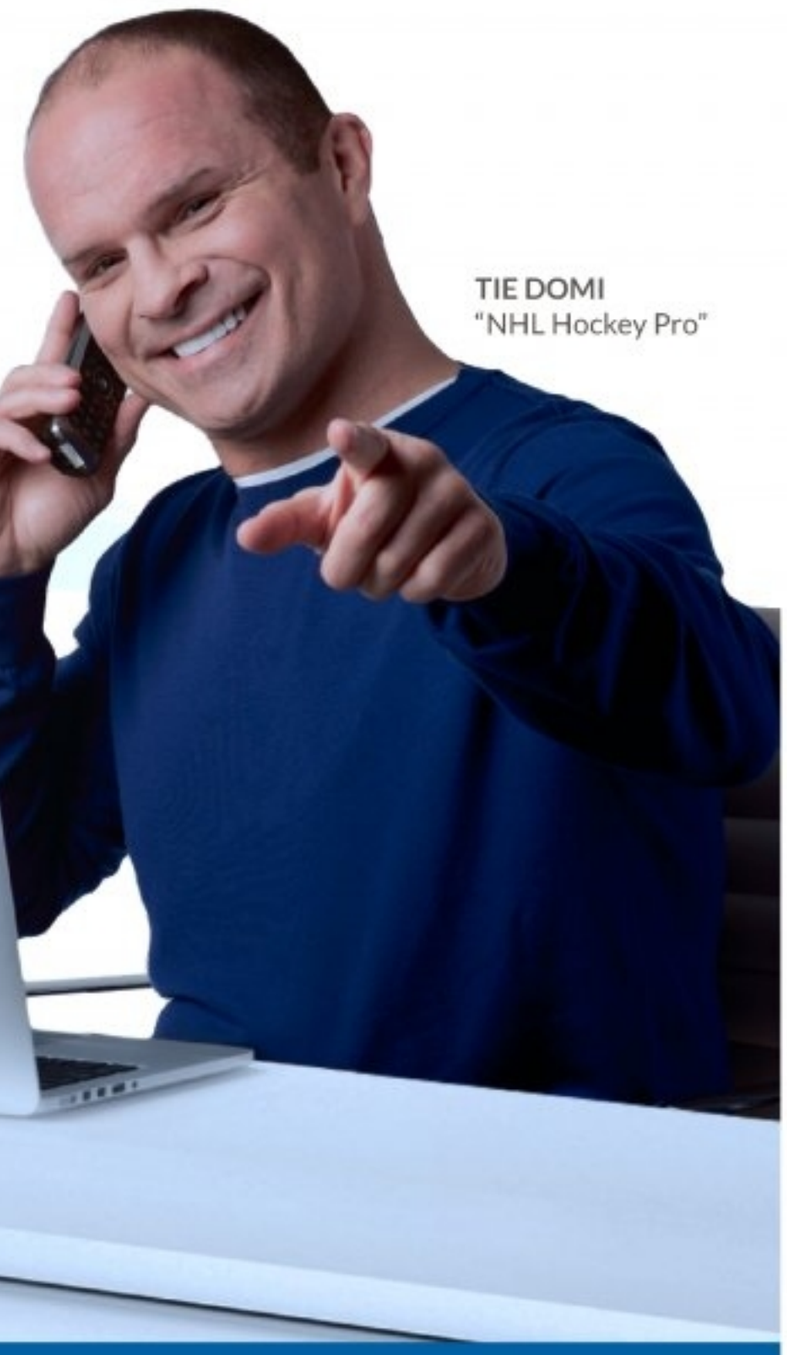

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Shan's election a beacon of hope for Tamil-Canadians

DIVERSITY

But only six of 44 members from visible minorities

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When Neethan Shan sat down at city council Wednesday, he represented a historic first for Tamil-Canadians against the backdrop of a diversity problem at Toronto city hall.

Although nearly 50 per cent of Torontonians are racialized minorities, that diversity isn't reflected in the city's elected officials. Shan, who replaced former city councillor Raymond Cho in Monday's byelection, is one of only six councillors who hail from visible minority communities. Toronto has 44 councillors.

"That's a really low percentage. And there's only one racialized woman in that council," said the Ryerson Diversity Institute's director Wendy Cukier.

Shan moved to Canada as a 16-year-old refugee from Sri Lanka. He's the first Tamil-Canadian elected to Toronto city council, which is a source of inspiration for Toronto's sizable Sri Lankan population.

"It is exciting especially for young people in our community, who will look up to him and see what is possible in this country," David Poopalapillai, a spokesman for the Canadian Tamil Congress, said.

"We all hope he does well not just for our community but for everyone in his ward."

Toronto council boasts a lesser rate of diversity than its provincial and federal counterparts.

Seven of 23 MPs hailing from the Toronto area are from minority groups, while there are six out of 24 at Queen's Park, says Cukier.

Even if municipal representation is a result of democratic elections, Cukier said, those numbers warrant further exploration as to why there's such disparity in local politics. The importance of diversity in leadership cannot be downplayed, she said.

"It plays a role in shaping the aspirations of young people and signalling who belongs and who doesn't, as well as providing multiple perspectives on policy issues," she said.

Neethan Shan gets a hug from a supporter after winning the byelection. EDUARDO LIMA/ METRO

RACISM INCIDENT

Wynne censures trustee

Nancy Elgie must "search her conscience" as she clings to her position on the York Region school board after using an "unacceptable" slur in reference to a black parent, says Premier Kathleen Wynne.

While she stopped short of urging the defiant trustee to resign, Wynne — herself a former Toronto trustee — instead said "individuals have to make their own decisions.

"But there are no circumstances in which a child or a staff member or family — anyone who works in a board — should be subjected to racism, should be subjected to discrimination ... You know an individual will have to make up her own mind," Wynne said at Queen's Park on Wednesday. "There's a lot of pressure on her."

Wynne THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

When reporters noted that two of Wynne's own cabinet ministers, as well as the leaders of the Progressive Conservatives and the NDP, have publicly urged Elgie to step down, she said the broader issue is the culture at the York public board, one "that is making it so that people feel unsafe, that they feel that they're not able to speak out."

Last November, Elgie, 82, used the word "n—" to refer to a black parent, in public, after a meeting. The board hired an outside investigator and Elgie apologized. Her family blamed the incident on a head injury, suffered last October, and the resulting concussion that caused Elgie to mix up her words. She is now on a medical leave. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY HALL

Call goes out to end Victoria U's tax-exempt status

The owner of top-dollar land under a swanky Yorkville mall pays no property taxes to the city — a multimillion-dollar anomaly that infuriated councillors fighting over "scraps" to fund vital services.

Victoria University, a federated college of the University of Toronto, owns 131 Bloor St. W. in the heart of the posh "Mink Mile" shopping strip. Revenue Properties leases the land and owns The Colonnade — 71,156 square feet of apartments plus luxury shops, including Cartier, Chanel and Escada — atop it.

The 1951 Victoria University Act exempts all the college's land but not commercial buildings. The U of T enjoys the same exemption but voluntarily pays the city about $240,000 a year in lieu of taxes for a few small commercial properties.

City staff say the exemption cost taxpayers about $12.2 million between 2009 and 2015.

"This designation was meant for property used for education — not to have a profit centre," said Kristyn Wong-Tam, the local councillor.

"Now is the time to come up with a resolution, otherwise we'll push forward with asking the province to change the Act to force Victoria College to start paying its fair share to the city." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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TORONTO'S 2017 BUDGET

GARDINER PIÑATA
Monopoly money, houses and toy footballs rained to the concrete outside city hall Wednesday morning as activists busted open a piñata replica of the Gardiner Expressway during a demonstration. The items represented budget priorities members of Toronto Can Do Better say are being ignored.
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City building vs. low T.O.'s aspirations not

But you won't see much added or cut this year

OPINION

Matt Elliott

As I watched Toronto's 2017 budget wind its way through the approval process at city hall over the last few months, culminating with a special Toronto City Council meeting held yesterday, a quote by urban planner Brent Toderian kept running through my head.

"The truth about a city's aspirations isn't found in its vision," Brent likes to say. "It's found in its budget."

So what does Mayor John Tory's latest budget tell us about Toronto's aspirations?

The answer: not a lot.

In fact, it's hard to find much aspiration in this budget, which was still under debate late at Toronto city hall as of press time.

As has been done in 15 of the 19 years since amalgamation, the budget holds the residential property tax increase at the rate of at inflation or less. Before councillors began debating the particulars of the budget, Tory led council to vote 35-8 to lock in a two per cent budgetary increase for residents.

With little new money coming in, the new budget won't significantly add to city services, but won't take an axe to them either.

It will allow the city to scrape by for another year, but it doesn't have an answer many of the city's long-standing issues: about 29 billion in unfunded projects, the growing waiting lists for child care and recreation programs, and the city's reliance on reserve funds and a real estate tax to balance the books.

In other words, as it did last year, the budget will mostly maintain the status quo.

With his status quo budgets, Tory's budget strategy is a departure from those of his predecessors. Both Mayor David Miller and Mayor Rob Ford brought forward city budgets that were dripping with aspiration.

Miller fashioned himself a city builder. He increased the TTC budget to historic levels. He championed major revitalization projects. He spent money.

Ford, on the other hand, went hard in the other direction. He aspired — in a haphazard, largely ineffective way — to reduce the size and cost of city hall.

Big, obvious aspirations, expressed through their budgets.

Tory, in contrast, seems to aspire mostly to walk the line between the two. He wants to save

> **The truth about a city's aspirations isn't found in its vision. It's found in its budget.**
> Brent Toderian

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taxes: clear

money and keep taxes low, but also invest in some things.

It makes for some arbitrary decisions.

User fee hikes and TTC fare increases are okay by Tory, but property tax increases above the rate of inflation are verboten. Big-ticket items like rebuilding the eastern part of the Gardiner Expressway and extending the Scarborough Subway get his thumbs up, while small-cost things like the frequency of street sweeping, funding to maintain staff levels at homeless shelters and the continuation of programming at neighbourhood swimming pools get scrutinized.

As a political move, I get the appeal of straddling the centre. But as a strategy for running a city, it's left Toronto without a clear fiscal direction.

Is Tory interested in building a sustainable city for the future, or just working to provide residents with a low tax bill?

In this budget, answers — and aspirations — are hard to find.

BUDGET MATCHUP GAME

Toronto's budget debate typically brings out a mix of outrageous and inspired comments. See how well you know council by matching up who said what at yesterday's meeting.

1. James Pasternak
2. Gord Perks
3. Denzil Minnan-Wong
4. John Tory
5. Giorgio Mammoliti
6. Frances Nunziata
7. Kristyn Wong-Tam

A. Advocated to apply a gender equity lens to the budget

B. Proposed an additional 2.26 per cent property tax increase, with the hope it would fund repairs for crumbling social housing units

C. Warned that raising property taxes above inflation could be unaffordable to veterans who fought for our freedom

D. "Nobody wants more billboards but it could mean a lot more money"

E. Accused Giorgio Mammoliti of "game show politics"

F. "It's too noisy in the council chambers!"

G. "Everybody's laughing, and I don't understand what's funny"

Answers 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-E, 5-G, 6-F, 7-A

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Storms take second swipe at East Coast

WEATHER

Weary people are braced for yet another wallop of snow

Mike Blackwood digs out in downtown St. John's, NL Wednesday as blizzards hit the area for the second day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The snow just kept falling on Paradise.

"It started yesterday morning, slowed down last night and then picked up again and now we're all snowed in again!" Darren Byrne said Wednesday from Paradise, a small community outside St. John's which he estimated got about 60 cm of snow.

"Yes my love, there's probably eight feet of snow in the driveway in front of my car!"

The blizzard that walloped the Maritimes Monday and Tuesday took a second bruising swipe at eastern Newfoundland on Wednesday, dumping mounds of snow and unleashing strong winds on a region already weary from a series of powerful storms.

Meantime, another storm was heading for Atlantic Canada on Thursday, prompting Environment Canada to post storm warnings for much of western Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and southern and eastern New Brunswick. The agency said another 15 to 30 cm could fall in those areas after it arrives sometime around midnight Wednesday and turns to freezing rain in some parts.

David Neil, a meteorologist with Environment Canada in central Newfoundland, said on Tuesday winds gusted to 110 km/h in areas like Cape Race, Burgeo and the Connaigre peninsula but had dropped to about 80 km/h in most affected areas.

He said the St. John's area was expected to get more than 60 cm of snow by the time the system moved out later Wednesday, while Gander recorded about 30 cm, raising the snowfall there to almost 100 cm so far this winter.

Neil said it's not unusual to get that much snow, but this system hung around for a long time, covered a wide area and is being followed in quick succession by another one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 16

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL

'Knees together' judge seeks review

A judge who could lose his job after asking a sexual assault complainant why she couldn't keep her knees together is asking for a judicial review in his case. Justice Robin Camp wants to address the Canadian Judicial Council after the accused, Alexander Wagar, in the original trial was acquitted again in a retrial.

In court documents filed this week, Camp says the council refused his request to speak because he already had the opportunity to address a disciplinary panel and the acquittal didn't change anything. Camp noted that five council members felt Camp should be heard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals strongly backing anti-Islamophobia bill

PARLIAMENT

Motion calls for action against 'climate of hate and fear'

Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid is congratulated by colleagues as she makes an announcement about an anti-Islamophobia motion on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I along with some of my colleagues, have been the recipients of hateful comments. This strengthens my resolve to continue to combat this issue.
MP Iqra Khalid

The Liberal government is coming out strongly in favour of a motion to condemn Islamophobia and all other forms of racism and religious discrimination.

Heritage Minister Melanie Joly said passing the non-binding motion would send a strong message about discrimination against the Muslim community, particularly in light of the recent deadly attack on a mosque in Quebec City.

"We overwhelmingly reject the politics of racism and exclusion," Joly said Wednesday outside the House of Commons.

She was surrounded by Liberal MPs — including several cabinet ministers — as a strong show of support, and a signal of her confidence that despite this being a free vote, there would not be anyone in the Liberal caucus who is expected to stand against it.

"Our government is committed to building a diverse, inclusive and welcoming society that promotes respect for all, regardless of faith, race or ethnicity."

The private member's motion, put forward by Liberal MP Iqra Khalid, calls on the government to "recognize the need to quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear" and condemn Islamophobia, as well as all other kinds of "systemic racism and religious discrimination."

The Commons heritage committee would also be asked to study the issue and develop a strategy to tackle it.

A number of Conservative MPs have called for the motion to be more inclusive, warning it risks stifling freedom of expression by preventing criticism of elements of Islam or Muslim culture, such as the face-covering veil known as the niqab.

Both Joly and Khalid insisted the motion would not touch on freedom of expression.

Khalid, a Muslim, said her own experience with Islamophobia over the past few weeks has convinced her to press ahead. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

'Hot tea' lawsuit against Starbucks fails

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Remember the 1994 "hot coffee" lawsuit that saw a U.S. jury order McDonald's to pay a coffee-burn victim $2.86 million in damages?

Turns out Starbucks could have had its own "hot tea" moment in Canada — except in the Sechelt, British Columbia case, a provincial court judge tossed out a local woman's lawsuit that had steeped for 17 months.

On Feb. 1, judge Steven Merrick dismissed a tea-burn lawsuit filed by Shayla Williams, who received second- and third-degree burns to her "left thigh and gluteal area," she testified, after "the lid popped off" a cup of tea she'd ordered from a Starbucks drive-through — served at 86C, the company testified.

"Understandably, Ms. Williams was in significant pain," Merrick ruled. "Despite my sympathy for the claimant who clearly suffered extremely painful burns, it is my judgment that she has not proven her case against the defendant."

ALBERTA

Seemingly small decision affects town in a big way

A study commissioned by a town in eastern Alberta suggests the closure of a federal immigration processing centre would be economically devastating.

Vegreville would suffer a permanent drop in population, lower property values and higher unemployment if the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Case Processing Centre moves to Edmonton, according to the report.

The report suggests Vegreville could lose up to 420 people, or 7.3 per cent of the population, and the town believes about 130 students would be lost from local schools

It could also lead to a 30 per cent decrease in home prices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Protesters gather in Milwaukee, Wisc. to rally against President Donald Trump's policy on immigration earlier are telling immigrants to skip class, miss work and not shop Thursday to show how important they are to the

Immigrants in U.S. to disappear — for

ACTIVISM!

Part of organized cross-country actions to show their importance

Organizers in cities across the U.S. are telling immigrants to miss class, miss work and not shop on Thursday as a way to show the country how important they are to America's economy and way of life.

"A Day Without Immigrants" actions are planned in cities including Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Austin, Texas.

The protest comes in response to President Donald Trump and his 1-month-old administration. The Republican president has pledged to increase deportation of immigrants living in the country illegally, build a wall along the Mexican border, and ban people from certain majority-Muslim countries from coming into the U.S. He also has blamed high unemployment on immigration.

Employers and institutions in some cities were already expressing solidarity Wednesday with immigrant workers.

Washington restaurateur John Andrade said he would close his businesses Thursday, and David Suro, owner of Tequilas Restaurant in Philadelphia and a Mexican immigrant, said he also planned to participate.

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts said it would remove or shroud all artwork created or given by immigrants to the museum through Feb. 21.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents in the nation, school officials worried that hundreds of students may stay home on Thursday.

"We respectfully ask all parents to acknowledge that students need to be in class every day to benefit from the education they are guaranteed and to avoid falling behind in school and life," principals with the Albuquerque Public Schools wrote in a letter to parents.

Students who take part in the protest will receive an unexcused absence, Albuquerque school officials said.

Organizers in Philadelphia said they expect hundreds of workers and families to participate.

"Our goal is to highlight the

LABOUR

American workers entering a 'dark

He's the self-styled champion of the Forgotten American. But if you're trying to figure out how billionaire President Donald Trump will square his much-touted business acumen with his concern for the working masses, the clues may lie in a list of broken web links.

A review of the Department of Labor's website revealed that multiple posts about protecting precarious workers, enforcing labour laws, and cracking down on wage theft appear to have vanished from the website.

For the charitably inclined, it might be a mysterious coincidence. For critics, it's a signal of what's to come.

"The first three actions that Donald Trump took, one was to take down information from the Department of Labor website," said California-based workers' rights advocate Carmen Rojas. "If we have been living in an overcast period for working people in the U.S., we are about to enter into a dark, dark period."

Gone is Trump's first pick for labor secretary Andrew Puzder, who withdrew his nomination Wednesday following a public outcry over the business magnate who has trash talked minimum wage hikes and overtime protections.

this week. Across the U.S., organizers American way of life. GETTY IMAGES

pledge a day

need for Philadelphia to expand policies that stop criminalizing communities of colour," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a nonprofit group that works with the Latino immigrant community. "What would happen if massive raids did happen? What would the city look like?"

Almiron said that while community groups have not seen an uptick in immigration raids in the city, residents are concerned about the possibility.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney is among leaders in several cities nationwide who have vowed to maintain their "sanctuary city" status and decline to help federal law enforcement with deportation efforts.

Many people who make the choice to skip work Thursday will not be paid in their absence, but social media posts encouraging participation stressed that the cause is worth the sacrifice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISRAEL

Trump charts new course for Middle East

Charting a striking new course for the Middle East, President Donald Trump on Wednesday withheld clear support for an independent Palestine and declared he could endorse a one-nation solution to the long and deep dispute between Palestinians and Israel.

The American president, signalling a new era of comity between the U.S. and Israel after rocky relations under President Barack Obama, said he was more interested in an agreement that leads to peace than in any particular path to get there. Standing beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump broke not only with recent U.S. presidents but also distanced the United States from the prevailing position of much of the world.

While Trump urged Netanyahu to "hold off" on Jewish settlement construction in territory the Palestinians claim for their future state, he offered unwavering support for Israel, a pledge he appeared to substantiate with his vague comments about the shape of any agreement.

While it once appeared that a two-state solution was the "easier of the two" options for the Palestinians and Israel, Trump said he'd be open to alternatives. "I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like," he told reporters.

Separately on Wednesday, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called on Netanyahu to end settlement building and expressed "willingness to resume a credible peace process " Also on Wednesday, CIA chief Mike Pompeo secretly held talks in the West Bank with Abbas, the first high-level meeting between the Palestinian leader and a Trump administration official, senior Palestinian officials said. The White House wouldn't comment on the meeting

All serious peace negotiations in recent decades have assumed the emergence of an independent Palestine. The alternatives appear to offer dimmer prospects for peace, given Palestinian demands for statehood. Dozens of countries, including the U.S., reaffirmed their support for a two-state accord at an international conference in Paris last month, before Trump's inauguration.

After weeks of dancing around the issue of expanded Israeli settlement construction, Trump asked Netanyahu to "hold back on settlements for a bit." In recent weeks, Netanyahu has approved construction of more than 6,000 new settler homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast War. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands during a joint news conference at the East Room of the White House Wednesday in Washington, DC. GETTY IMAGES

period' with new administration

But critics have other concerns.

Many official departmental documents and orders from the Obama administration are still available. Yet there are notable disappearances, including an executive order that lifted the minimum wage of federal contractors to $10.10 an hour — a move that provided an estimated 200,000 low-wage workers with a raise. Numerous links to Department of Labor blog posts also appeared to be broken, specifically on issues related to wage theft, enforcement, and employee misclassification — the practice of wrongly classifying workers as independent contractors to avoid legal obligations like paying minimum wage.

All three areas were championed under Obama in an effort to better protect vulnerable workers. The administration's significant investments in proactive enforcement recovered more than $1.2 billion in back pay for wage-theft victims over five years.

Other pages from a similar time period are still available. No one from the department or the White House answered questions as to why pages on specific subjects appeared to have vanished, or what the administration's overall labour strategy would be. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Migrant deaths rising: EU

REFUGEES

Smugglers on lawless Libyan coast overload tiny dinghies

Migrant deaths have risen to a record level on the Libya-to-Italy Mediterranean Sea smuggling route, and the increasing number of rescue boats trying to prevent mass drownings there might actually be helping the smugglers, the European Union's border and coast guard chief says.

Frontex executive director Fabrice Leggeri said Wednesday that authorities face a "sad paradox," for as the international community increases its efforts to send more rescue ships close to Libya, more people die as smuggling rings pack ever more people onto tiny dinghies and push them out toward the open sea.

He said the recorded number of migrant drowning deaths on the route in 2016, which might be much less than the true loss of life, stood at 4,579. Leggeri called it "tragic and the reasons are well known: the number of migrants now (arriving) on very small dinghies."

Migrants and refugees wave for help from inside a wooden boat 21 miles north of Sabratha, Libya. The chief of the European border and coast guard agency says migrant deaths on the Libya-to-Italy smuggling route have increased to a record level despite ever more rescue vessels trying to prevent mass drownings. EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Frontex report Risk analysis for 2017 said smugglers have grown more bold and reckless, knowing that rescue boats will be right on the edge of Libya's territorial waters.

"Dangerous crossings on unseaworthy and overloaded vessels were organized with the main purpose of being detected" by military, EU or civilian vessels ready to pluck desperate migrants out of the water if necessary.

"Apparently, all parties involved in (search and rescue) operations in the Central Mediterranean unintentionally help criminals achieve their objectives at minimum cost, strengthen their business model by increasing the chances of success," the report said.

It said migrants and refugees setting off on the dangerous voyage were "aware of and rely on humanitarian assistance to reach the EU."

181,459

Overall, central Mediterranean migrant crossings increased 17 per cent last year to 181,459 people.

Leggeri said smugglers along the lawless Libyan coast put an average of about 100 people on a small boat in 2015, then increased that to 160 per boat last year. He said that, together with a decrease in food and survival equipment like life vests, it was a prime reason for the number of casualties.

Compared to the record number of deaths last year, the central Mediterranean route saw 2,869 deaths in 2015 and 3,161 in 2014. There is little sign the surge is abating, even during this winter. There were 228 recorded deaths in January, by far the biggest total for the month in recent years.

Overall, central Mediterranean migrant crossings increased 17 per cent last year to 181,459 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey under pressure on rights

Europe's top human rights institution on Wednesday urged Turkey's leaders to "urgently change course" and reverse violations of media freedoms and the rule of law, voicing alarm over democracy in the country.

The call comes as Turkey is set to hold a referendum on April 16 on switching to a presidential system — a move critics fear will concentrate too many powers in the hands of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In a report, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, said that Turkey's worrisome lack of media freedoms and freedom of expression had reached "alarming" levels. Among many issues, Muiznieks criticized Turkey's broad definition of terrorism and terrorist propaganda, the imprisonment of journalists, the erosion of the independence of the judiciary, the abundant use of defamation laws used to silence critics, censorship on the internet and the use of state resources to favour pro-government media. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada, European Union see trade deal as victory

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Trudeau to address EU Parliament on Thursday

Lawmakers in Canada and Europe are hailing Wednesday's approval of the Canada-EU free trade deal by the European Parliament as a win for the values of openness in the face of anti-trade movements, including the Donald Trump administration in the United States.

The legislature in Strasbourg, France, approved the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement by a margin of 408-254, with 33 abstentions. The vote clears a major hurdle for the deal that saw its first round of bargaining almost eight years ago and has had to overcome mounting anti-trade populism in Europe.

Canada's Parliament also is expected to ratify the deal in the coming months, which means 90 per cent of it would come into force under provisional application.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sets off on a trip to address the European Parliament. ADRIAN WYLD / THE CANADIAN PRESS

That key procedural step allows the deal to take effect without the ratification of the European Union's 28 member countries and numerous regional governments.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was en route to France to deliver his own pro-trade message in an address Thursday to the European Parliament, a first for a Canadian leader, and to top business leaders a day later in Germany.

On his way into a caucus meeting earlier Wednesday, Trudeau sang the praises of the deal as evidence of the merits of globalization.

"I think it's an illustration that when you put forward a progressive trade deal that takes into account the responsibility of governments to create good middle-class jobs, create inclusive growth — not just for a few, but for everyone — (and) that focuses on the middle class, we can move forward on globalization."

International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, who was already in Strasbourg ahead of the vote, called it "the right deal at the right time."

"Good for workers, consumers and a new standard for trade."

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom took direct aim at anti-globalization forces in remarks to Parliament, in what appeared to be a thinly veiled rebuttal to Trump's protectionist and anti-immigration policies.

"With Canada we share the democratic values of tolerance and openness. We co-operate in tackling common challenges such as migration, sustainable development, climate change and terrorism," Malmstrom said.

The Conference Board of Canada called the agreement good for both sides, since economic history demonstrates that greater free movement of goods, services and people is a catalyst for economic growth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Media reform plan 'tax on advertisers,' Google says

Proposals for tax changes aimed at helping Canadian publishers fight for revenues with online news aggregators would result in a punitive "tax on advertisers," executives from Google Canada and Facebook Canada told a Commons committee.

That's because tax laws currently designed to prop up the industry are archaic and simply don't apply to the Internet age, said Jason Kee, Google Canada's head of policy and government relations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON SECULAR DRESS CODES

A Montreal philosopher co-authored a report nine years ago that recommended imposing a secular dress code. The mosque shooting now has him regretting that suggestion.

Almost a decade ago, Montreal philosopher Charles Taylor — one of Canada's leading intellectuals — co-presided over a provincial commission on religious accommodation that recommended, among other measures, that Quebec impose a secular dress code on the province's judges and police forces.

In so doing, he and historian/sociologist Gérald Bouchard inadvertently planted the seeds of Quebec's decade-long fixation on religious vestments in general and the Muslim veil in particular.

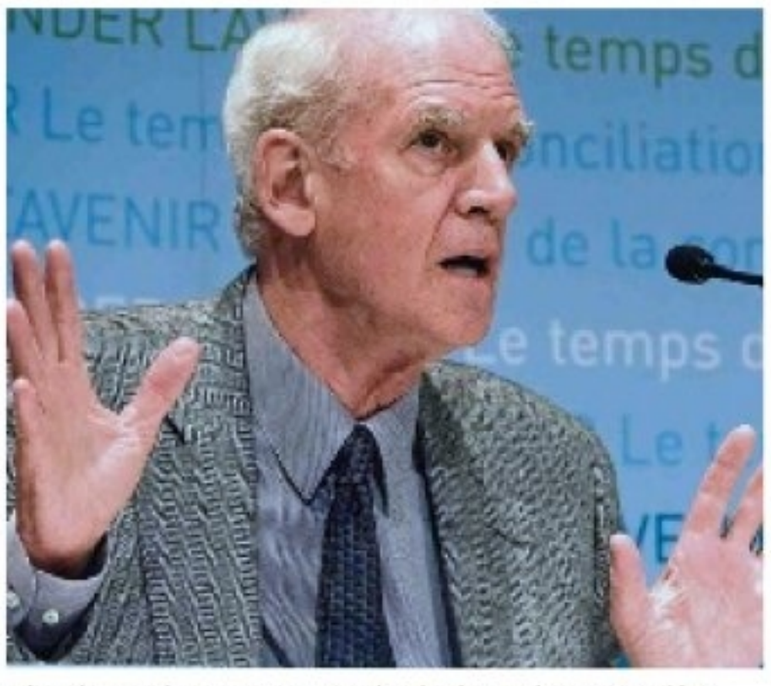
Some of those seeds eventually found their way elsewhere in Canada, most notably in the shape of the debate on the place of the niqab at citizenship ceremonies at the time of the last federal election.

The Bouchard-Taylor report was more than 300 pages long and most of its recommendations dealt with measures designed to nurture a pluralistic society. But it was the notion of a government-imposed ban on religious signs that stuck with the public.

The imprimatur of two leading thinkers freed part of Quebec's chattering and political classes to jump on the dress code bandwagon and advocate restrictions on individual religious expression that would have been unthinkable prior to the report.

Taylor and Bouchard prescribed a ban on religious signs for people invested, by virtue of their positions, with coercive powers. In the rhetoric of the Coalition Avenir Québec and the Parti Québécois, that came to mean anyone in a position of authority. And even that term soon lost any semblance of meaning.

In the PQ's defunct secularism charter, a secular dress code would have been imposed on anyone on the public payroll, from clerks to nurses to doctors to child-care workers.



After the Quebec mosque attack, Charles Taylor reversed his support for a secular dress code in Quebec . THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neither academic had such blanket restrictions in mind when they wrote their report. On various occasions, both tried to set the record straight.

Now Taylor has gone a step further. In an op-ed piece published in La Presse earlier this week, he urged Quebec's political class to put back in the bottle the genie he and Bouchard let out. In hindsight, he wrote, he wishes he had left the bottle uncorked.

Taylor says he never did believe that a prohibition on religious signs, be it on those who sit on the court benches or wear a police uniform, was necessarily in keeping with Quebec's secular character.

In his op-ed, it comes across as little more than a bone thrown to the many Quebecers who felt their identity was threatened by expressions of religious diversity. The proposal had more to do with marketing than actual values.

Taylor writes that he thought the recommendation would help a majority of Quebecers buy in to the more positive prescriptions of the report.

The opposite, of course, happened. Even with the best of intentions, opportunism is not a substitute for principles.

Taylor also predicts that should the national assembly ever put the restrictions on religious signs he once advocated into law, the courts would throw them out.

That, too, is a bit of a stunning admission.

Over the past decade, there has not been in Canada a substantial court ruling that would infirm or affirm Taylor's doubts as to the legal standing of the proposal he is recanting. In other words, if he believes it would probably not survive a charter challenge now, he would have had cause to suspect as much at the time of the writing of the report.

Taylor said it was the attack on a Quebec mosque two weeks ago that prompted his public reversal. In the aftermath of that attack, the parties in the national assembly essentially resumed the debate over religious accommodation where they had left off. Arguing that a majority of Quebecers back the dress code restrictions of the Bouchard-Taylor report, the opposition parties have been pressuring the Liberal government to pass them into law.

Taylor believes that the public goodwill that has resulted from the mosque tragedy will be squandered if Quebec's political class does not switch its focus from debating how far to restrict the rights of religious minorities to the building of more bridges with the Muslim community.

Predictably, since he reversed his position, Taylor has been vilified on social media. Some have called him a Liberal sellout; others accuse him of being a fundamentalist.

It took courage for Taylor to repudiate a notion that has driven Quebec's identity debate for the best part of a decade. Still one cannot help but regret that he did not exhibit that courage nine years ago, at the time of the co-writing of the report that bears his name.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

The choice is hers Rachel Lindsay is the next Bachelorette, the first black lead in the show's history. WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

Reality TV gets real

Vicky Mochama
Metro

After 13 seasons of ignoring it, I am now a massive fan television's longest-running arranged marriage scheme, The Bachelorette. This is because the newest bachelorette is Rachel Lindsay, a black female attorney.

It doesn't even air until May 22 and I can conclusively say it is the best show on television. And not only did ABC announce this during Black History Month, but — it can't be coincidence — the new season also premieres on my birthday. Fate has foretold the greatness of this show.

Even though it's in the vapid confines of The Bachelorette, it is still awesome to see many men vying for a black woman's attention and love. Yet it is telling about the state of the world that the producers, looking for ways to shake up the show, landed on "What if she was a black?"

Like using bad olive oil, it is offensive but not egregious. It suggests there's something incredibly wild and risky about dating a black woman. (I mean, there is, but that is because black women are incredible! Not because we are like feral animals in the outback.)

At the same time: finally.

This show has been on for 12 seasons! Black people have been around for much longer!

Although there have been black contestants on both The Bachelor and Bachelorette, Lindsay included, they've never been the ones doing the choosing. And since the show's inception in 2002, they never got chose either.

Black women who are dating are statistically less likely to be picked. According to data from OkCupid founder Christian Rudder, men on the website find black women the least desirable group.

In a cover feature for The Walrus, Hadiya Roderique experimented with the idea by alternating her OkCupid profile between her actual pictures, pictures of a white woman, and a "whitened" version of herself. As a white woman, she received far more messages than when she presented as herself, a black woman.

This jives with my own dating experience. The first time I quit Tinder was because the messages I received were hyper-sexualized and racialized. The former is part of the appeal of the app to some, but for me the combination just created a digitized version of the racist sexual harassment I experience in real life.

(I am back on again with some rules — e.g. if the other person says something even remotely racial, I hit that unmatch button faster than Usain Bolt sprints.)

For black women, the romantic fairy tale told by popular culture hasn't included us. That is why I will be watching The Bachelorette when Rachel Lindsay finds her Prince Harry.

metro
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metro LIFE
METRO FOCUS ACTIVISM!
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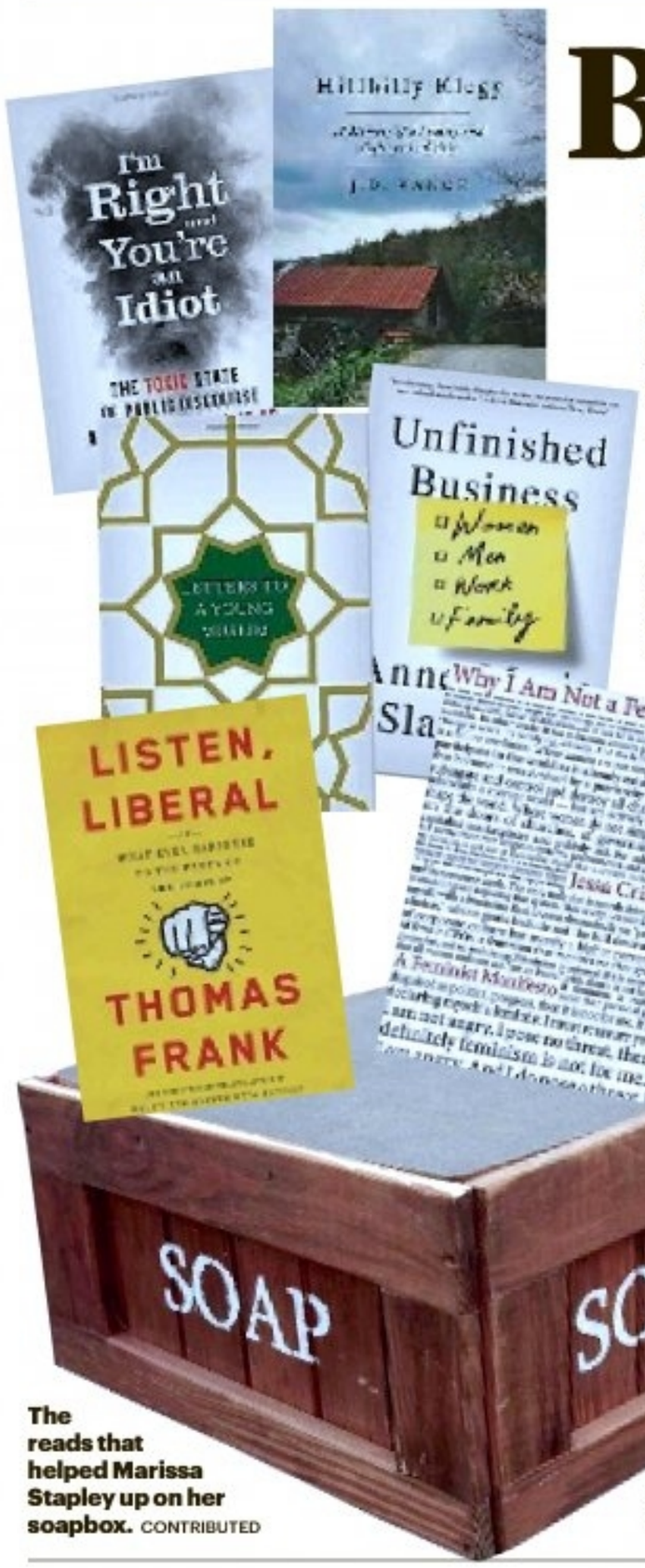
Actress-producer Krysten Ritter is becoming a novelist. Crown Archetype said that it had acquired Ritter's Bonfire, a psychological thriller about an environmental lawyer and a company accused of dumping toxic chemicals.

Books for bitter times



The reads that helped Marissa Stapley up on her soapbox. CONTRIBUTED

TAKING ISSUES

Put the phone away and open up to genuinely alternative facts

Marissa Stapley
Torstar News Service

In a world where facts and truth are becoming collateral damage, I've been speaking out even more than usual, and I'm not alone. There's an anger being awakened in all of us.

For me, that means having pointless arguments online with people I went to elementary school with and will probably never see again, and harsh, politically charged arguments with close family members. None of this has been rewarding, and it certainly hasn't changed anything. But what will?

I realized recently that in order to find that out, I needed to shut down my computer, look away from my phone and turn to the place within which I've always sought knowledge and comfort: books.

Debate

In **I'm Right and You're an Idiot** (New Society, 272 pages, $19.95) Canadian public relations guru turned author and activist James Hoggan writes: "In debate we assume we have the right answer, whereas dialogue assumes we all have pieces of the answer and can craft a solution together.

"Debate is combative and about winning, while dialogue is collaborative and focuses on exploring the common good. Debaters defend their assumptions and criticize the views of others, whereas in dialogue we reveal assumptions and examine all positions, including our own."

To that end, here's what I've been reading lately to find ways to constructively support what I already value and believe and to open my mind to the beliefs of others. Plus, I needed to find a way to stop shouting so much.

Liberalism

Listen, Liberal (Thomas Frank, Metropolitan Books, 320 pages, $31.50) takes on the democratic elite. As Canada awakens to how very like the U.S. we may be, questioning liberal values with an eye to both defending them and improving them, as well as truly understanding what it means to be elitist, is an uncomfortable necessity.

Classism

So, what's the opposite of a member of the liberal elite? **Hillbilly Elegy** (J.D. Vance, Harper, 272 pages, $34.99) has the answer to that. Vance was raised in the Rust Belt by a drug-addicted mother and then in the Appalachians by guardian grandparents who struggled with alcoholism and violence.

They loved him fiercely. His story puts a face to the white underclass who have become so outspoken in today's political arena. There's a lot to grapple with in a book like this but it's a good place to start when trying to understand what's going on in communities you may not identify with — and it makes it clear that speaking out from within, in any community, is the only way forward.

Religion

Next, I read **Letters to a Young Muslim**, by Omar Saif Ghobash (Picador; 272 pages, $31). This book is meant as a plea for moderation from an author who has clearly listened deeply and wants to speak the truth, gently and respectfully.

He's also writing to his sons, which ups the ante. No shouting allowed. Those arguing with the most fierceness — on both sides — about immigration bans and extremism may know nothing about what it means to be a Muslim or what Islam is. This is just a starting point, and a fine one at that.

Feminism

Now, on to feminism. I've been a feminist practically since I could speak in full sentences but never before have I felt on one hand so supported and on the other so opposed.

I've read plenty of books that support what I already think, but **Unfinished Business** by Anne Slaughter (Random House, 352 pages, $32) reminded me that this word "equality" I keep using might not mean what I think it does — and she bravely offers up a manifesto for true equality.

Why I Am Not A Feminist by Jessa Crispin (Melville House, 176 pages, $33.99) comes from an author who has created an identity out of being a contrarian, true, but who also demands more of mainstream feminism than it's currently delivering. (She is indeed looking directly at all of us in our cute pink pussy hats.)

Conservatism

This is all just a beginning. I'm still searching — and late this week, my search led me to the Little Free Library on my street. And there it was, a battered volume called **Confessions of a Conservative**.

When I got it home, I realized it was written in 1979 by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Garry Wills. Wills is a Roman Catholic who has criticized the approach of the church to homosexuality, abortion and contraception. He once wrote an article for The New York Review of Books that took on the second amendment. He no longer calls himself a conservative, mostly because of his experiences covering the civil rights movement, for example — but also because the conservatives won't have him.

Wills was brave, both to stand for something and then to abandon it when listening to the other side led him to a new way of seeing. I'm planning to stay open to this, no matter where my current quest for balanced knowledge leads me.

Courage, as well as a stack of books, is imperative.

INTERVIEW

Imagining a techno-utopian paradise from back in the 1950s

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Growing up, Elan Mastai was fascinated by his grandfather's collection of vintage science-fiction novels from the postwar era. He loved the stories contained within their brittle yellow pages, but especially the book covers.

He remembers staring at the garish illustrations of space adventurers, moon bases and flying cars. But even as a kid of the '80s, Mastai was already aware that the world had not exactly turned out the way these authors had imagined it. He remembers asking himself: "What happened to the future we were promised?"

Mastai's childhood fascination would never completely disappear, and later would become the genesis for his debut novel, All Our Wrong Todays, a humorous but prescient tale set in an alternative, utopian version of 2016, where war and famine — and even browning avocados — don't exist.

The story is told from the perspective of Tom Barren, the slacker son of a genius inventor who developed a time machine. After lust gets the best of Tom and he sleeps with the wrong person, his actions create a domino effect and he is catapulted into a dystopian universe that is recognizable as our own world. There, Tom discovers another version of himself and his loved ones, and must decide where he wants to live.

Initially, Toronto-based, Vancouver-raised screenwriter Mastai conceived All Our Wrong Todays as a film but realized he wanted to tell this story as a faux memoir.

It would become the hot ticket at the 2015 Frankfurt Book Fair, boasting a seven-figure deal and sales in 27 countries. "I had no anticipation of the response we were going to get," he says. "It's not something I thought about. It was gratifying but mind-blowing."

Although Mastai was influenced by his early memories of his grandfather's books, and his visits to Expo 86 in Vancouver — the last World Fair to be hosted in North America — he didn't draw from specific sources, but rather the feelings inspired by those collective cultural touchstones.

The book is filtered through a postwar perspective; an imagining of what a "techno-utopian paradise" would look like to someone in the 1950s.

"There would be certain social things that would seem odd to us now," Mastai says. "They have a different relationship with authority, with consumerism, gender roles play out differently. They didn't go through a lot of the political and social upheavals that we went through in the '60s, '70s and '80s."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Elan Mastai imagines the mundanities of daily life in a futuristic setting. CONTRIBUTED

‘She’s the character you love to hate’

INTERVIEW

Laura Dern finds sympathy for her alpha mom character

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada

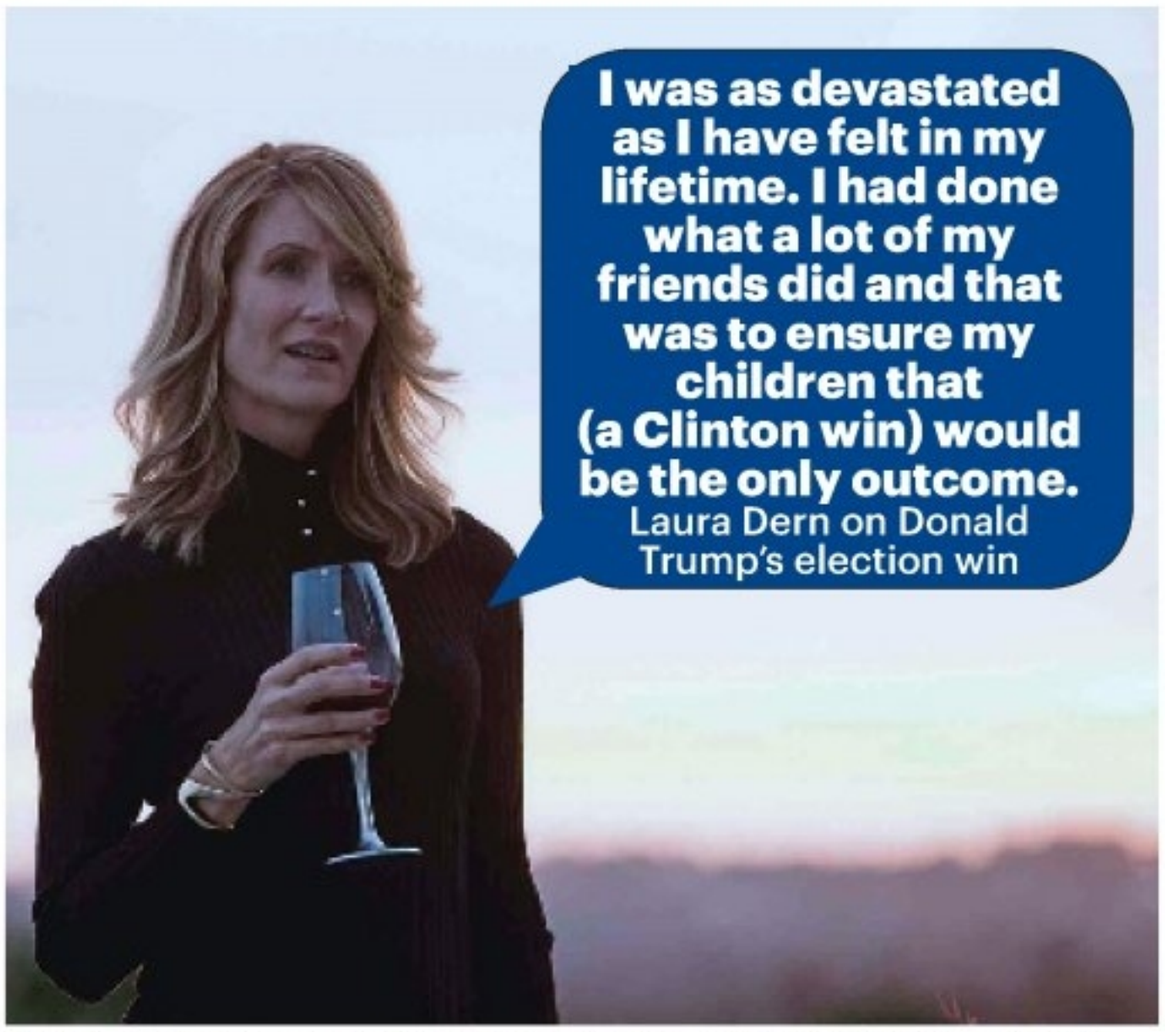
In the HBO miniseries Big Little Lies, Laura Dern plays Renata Klein, the Queen of Monterey, California, whose idea of a fabulous summer vacation is joining the board of Paypal.

When Renata is pitted against a fellow alpha mom, played by Reese Witherspoon, murder, naturally, ensues. The Oscar-nominated actor spoke to Metro about finding sympathy for “the character that you love to hate.”

What was it like to film in a beautiful beachfront home?
So. Gorgeous. When they showed the first episode at a premiere this week, when people saw me on my deck, they laughed. They think they know that person. The richest one. The most powerful. And the minute you set that up she becomes the character that you love to hate.

How did you find sympathy for her?
It’s interesting to see how men and fathers interact in the world, and no one’s judging their parenting based on their career or lack of career. But they are judging a working mom.

Your costar Shailene Woodley said that when Donald Trump won, she had already grieved his win. Were you surprised?
I was as devastated as I have felt in my lifetime. I had done what a lot of my friends did and that was to ensure my children that (Hillary Clinton’s win) would be the only outcome. And I was right, because 3.4 million more people voted for her. She did win people’s vote. Having worked on the film Recount for HBO, I went through a lot of research to play a woman who was notorious for helping voter suppression and voter fraud. It exists every time we have (an election), but if you’re going to add another country’s involvement, it means the system is broken and your voice may be overlooked. How do you explain that to your kids?



Oscar-nominated actress Laura Dern plays Renata Klein in HBO’s Big Little Lies. CONTRIBUTED

A recent study found that Americans ranked busy people, like your character, as high status. Do you see a shift in how people look at work/life balance?
As Americans, we hurry ourselves to make it all happen as fast as possible. Art doesn’t work that way. The great artists that inspired me are the ones that take time and let things gestate.

If you had known as a child that you would grow up to be in a Star Wars movie, what would you have thought?
I was raised by actors, and I wouldn’t have dreamt it up. It never occurred to me until I was on set and I looked around. I was literally in shock and I was eight years old seeing Star Wars for the first time.

Big Little Lies premieres Feb. 19 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HBO Canada.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I’M WATCHING

Cut-cut-cutting to the heart of the tension

THE SHOW: Big Little Lies, Season 1, Episode 3 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The therapy session (contains spoilers)

Nicole Kidman and Alexander Skarsgard’s perfect life is in fact less than perfect in HBO’s Big Little Lies. CONTRIBUTED

Celeste (Nicole Kidman) and Perry’s (Alexander Skarsgard) life looks art-directed: gorgeous, rich, with twin sons and a seaside mansion. But there’s a crack in the foundation: He hits her. She hits him back. Now they’re meeting a couples’ therapist (Robin Weigert).

Celeste and Perry sit on the couch. Immediately, it’s uncomfortable. “Things can just get a bit volatile,” Celeste begins tentatively. “We fight a lot.”

“Are we talking about a physical expression of anger?” the therapist asks. Slowly, they admit they are (though they minimize it).

“I’ve always been afraid she’d go through me,” Perry finally says. “Outgrow me. Figure me out. I’m constantly looking for evidence she doesn’t love me.”

This show is TV crack for me, a juicy, addictive soap opera but with seriously good writing and acting, as if Peyton Place were made like The Wire. (The seven hour-long episodes are written by 90’s TV king David E. Kelley and directed by Canada’s Jean-Marc Vallee.)

Its one flaw: It falls prey to the current fashion of cutting its timeline to ribbons, and showing us ultra-brief flashbacks and forwards, images without context, that we’re supposed to figure out later: a woman running, footprints on a beach, neighbors gossiping in a police interrogation.

But then it gives us scenes like the one above, a six-minute squirmer with long two-shots of Kidman and Skarsgard. She keeps darting her eyes at him, desperately reading his face for clues.

Anyone can create drama if they cut-cut-cut. But the suspense in these long takes is both delicious and painful.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

LEWIS ON LIST

Governor General Awards recipients announced

A sculptor whose best-known ceramics work was once rejected for display at a World Expo by the federal government is among the winners of this year’s Governor General’s Awards in Visual and Media Arts.

Glenn Lewis is one of eight laureates who will be honoured by the Canada Council for the Arts, the organization announced Wednesday. The Vancouver artist shook the art scene with his 1970 piece Artifact, which was commissioned by Canada for the World Expo in Osaka, Japan but rejected by the pavilion’s commissioner Patrick Reid as too provocative.

Other recipients of the $25,000 honour include Montreal filmmaker Michele Cournoyer, whose career in the Quebec new wave movement of the 1970s led to experimental animation shorts like Le chapeau, which won best Canadian short at the 2000 Toronto International Film Festival.

Writer Philip Monk, both an exhibition curator and contemporary art critic for Maclean’s magazine, is also being honoured.

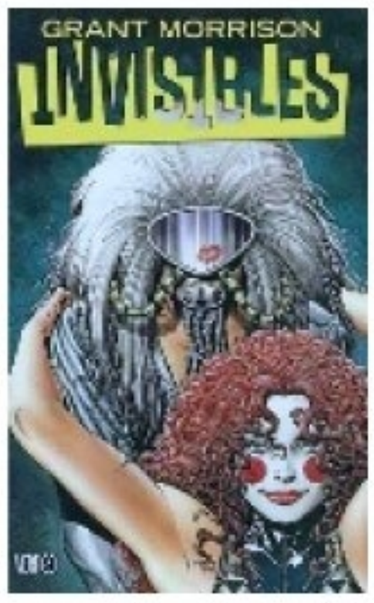
THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMIC BOOKS

A perfect roadmap for wannabe rebels

Invisibles Book One
By: Grant Morrison, Steve Yeowell and others;
Publisher: DC Comics/Vertigo
$24.99, 328 pages

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada



Feel like rebelling? Join the resistance and the Invisibles with a book that’s like a roadmap for fighting authority and thinking for yourself.

If you want proof, it’s right there on the second page, where the main character is introduced in the act of screaming an expletive while burning down his school library with a Molotov cocktail. And it only gets worse from there.

Reissued starting week in new editions, this 1994-2000 series is perhaps the most challenging and complicated story created by Grant Morrison, a writer best-known for complicated and challenging stories.

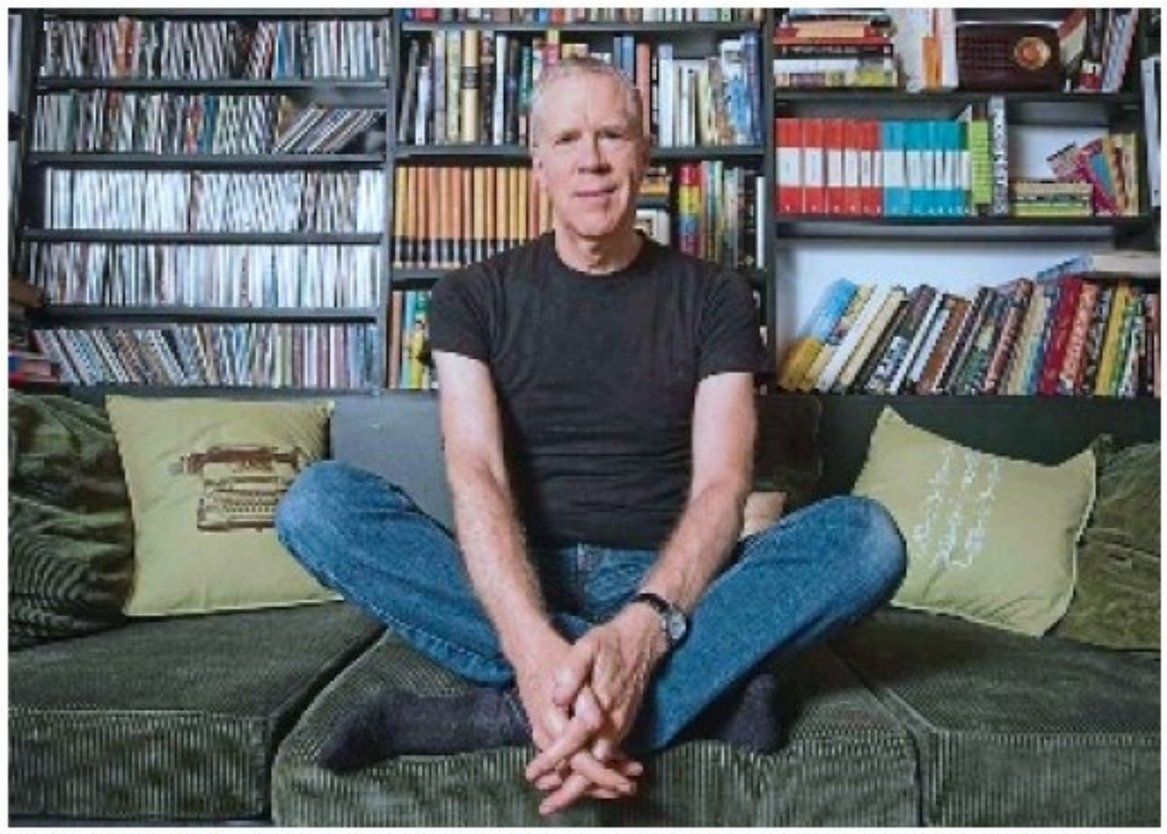
This volume collects the first 12 parts plus a special, and works as a story arc while introducing the bigger, even weirder narrative.

On the surface, it’s the story of a teenager, Dane McGowan, who’s a horrible little person fighting against pretty much everyone and everything. But delve deeper and it’s the first volume of a treatise about government, power, identity, resistance, and — if its writer is to be believed — a working magic spell.

But, however deep you go, it’s rewarding.

There’s plenty of action alongside the big ideas, but beware: it could change how you think.

The man who connected us



Humorist, radio host and author Stuart McLean was an officer of the Order of Canada and a professor emeritus at Ryerson University in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

OBITUARY

Tributes pour in for beloved Vinyl Cafe host Stuart McLean

Stuart McLean, a bestselling author, journalist and humorist who was "firmly committed to celebrating the positive, joyful and funny side of life" through his popular CBC Radio program The Vinyl Cafe, has died. He was 68.

"We were deeply saddened to learn that Stuart McLean passed away earlier today. Stuart was an exceptional storyteller who has left an indelible mark on CBC Radio and countless communities across Canada," read a statement from Susan Marjetti, executive director of radio and audio for CBC English Services.

In December, McLean announced he was suspending the long-running program to focus on treatment for melanoma, which he was diagnosed with in late 2015. He said his first round of immunotherapy treatment that winter was not completely successful and he needed to undergo another round this year.

The Vinyl Cafe radio show, which featured a mix of stories, essays and musical performances, was spun off into bestselling books and became a touring production in 2008. The show's stories centred on Dave, the owner of a secondhand record store, and also featured Dave's wife, Morley, their two children, Sam and Stephanie, and various friends.

> **His Dave and Morley stories made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together**
> CBC's Susan Marjetti

"Every week for 22 years, Stuart connected with his listeners in a way that few before him have. His Dave and Morley stories were as entertaining as they were enlightening; they made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together," said Marjetti.

A posting on the official Vinyl Cafe website said the staff behind the show were "finding comfort in memories of our dear friend."

"Stuart always emphasized that the world is a good place, full of good people, trying to do their best. He believed in people's extraordinary capacity for love and generosity. And he had faith in our ability to work together for the common good," the message reads.

"Stuart connected us — to our country and to each other. He entertained us, he made us think, he made us smile. Occasionally he made us cry. And, through all of that, he reminded us that life is made up of small moments. We never know which ones will be forgotten and which ones will stay with us forever."

McLean had been upbeat about his cancer setback and told fans in an online message posted in December that he expected to return to work.

"I don't want you to worry about me. A year ago I told you that I expected this to be just a bump in the road, not the end of the road. I still believe that to be true. I hope we will meet up again — on the radio or in theatres. We'll make sure to tell you before that happens," McLean wrote.

"In the meantime, look after yourselves and each other. And know that this isn't goodbye. It's just ... so long for now."

On Twitter, comedian Mark Critch of the CBC show This Hour Has 22 Minutes paid tribute to McLean. "I wrote several #StuartMaclean parodies for '22.' They were easy to write because I was such a fan of his work. I'll miss his Canada," Critch tweeted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Suzanne Somers lists her 73-acre Palm Springs compound for $14.5M

The Discovery townhomes, part of Concord Park Place, the 45-acre, multi-tower condominium complex at Leslie Street and Highway 401. CONTRIBUTED

Buyers being pushed into condo market

CONDO TRENDS

Low stock of single-family homes raised condo sales

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

They say a rising tide lifts all boats, and that's what's happening with Toronto's condo market as prices increase as a result of the scarcity of single-family homes.

"We are seeing a massive decline in general housing inventory," says Al Daimee, a sales representative with Toronto's Carbon Real Estate Group. "We're only sitting at about half of what was available a year ago."

Daimee says that two factors are in play here. "Detached homes right now are highly sought after because people want to be able to do something with the land. They want to build their dream home down the road."

The other side of the coin are the people who basically gave up on the house market last year. "They just didn't have any success, they lost on too many offers or the prices just moved beyond their means and now they're turning to the condo market and townhouse market," says Daimee.

In the meantime, new condo developments are under construction, including a number of mega-projects like Concord Park Place, the 45-acre, multi-tower condominium complex at Leslie Street and Highway 401, and M City in Misssissauga, a $1.5 billion, master-planned community spearheaded by Rogers Real Estate Development.

Despite all this new inventory, it may still not be enough to keep up with the demand.

"We're actually going to have a housing shortage further down the road if the development industry can't build more and quickly," says Daimee.

Some would argue we've already reached that point.

"The real message that we're telling people is there's nothing that we can foresee changing the growth," advises Daimee. "We don't see a big increase in interest rates coming anytime soon. We don't really see a negative impact from an employment or immigration standpoint. That's actually putting more pressure on our housing market."

Shanaz Bahrami, a broker with Royal LePage Signature Realty, says there are many more buyers than sellers. "We put an offer on a condo on Blue Jays Way that sold for $100,000 over asking price with 15 buyers. Only one person got the property — 14 more are still looking."

> **We are seeing a massive decline in general housing inventory.**
>
> Al Daimee, Carbon Real Estate Group

Bahrami says the market is such that entire new condominium towers are selling out as soon as they're released. One such building on Bloor Street recently sold out in five days, she says.

"Not just sold, they had just under 400 units available, and they had over 2,000 buyers."

TIGHT MARKET

2016 a record year for GTA condo sales and low inventory

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

More than 35 million people now call Canada home, according to recent data released by Statistics Canada.

While much of the overall growth in the GTA was in surrounding municipalities, Toronto itself also saw significant growth. Much of that growth was downtown near the lakeshore between the Don and Humber rivers and along the Yonge subway corridor, areas that have seen a great deal of condominium construction in the last decade as our industry complies with provincial intensification policy.

The development and home building industry is highly regulated; we don't just build what and where we want to. Rather the policies and plans of multiple levels of government determine how land gets used and where and how development occurs.

One such plan is the Province's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Released in 2006, it was designed to change the nature of development in the GTA and move away us from the largely suburban-oriented development pattern that we had been following to more intensive development. It mandates that a significant portion of development occur within existing communities and that development be denser and use less land.

BILD members have become very good at implementing the Growth Plan and have moved from building mainly single family lowrise homes such as detached, semi-detached and town homes to building at least as many highrise homes as ground-related homes.

In 2002, the biggest year ever for new home sales in the GTA, there were 53,660 homes sold. Of those 72 per cent were single-family lowrise and 28 per cent were highrise.

Last year there were 47,161 new homes sold in the GTA, and 62 per cent of them were high-rise units and 38 per cent were lowrise homes, according to Altus Group.

In fact, 2016 was a record breaking year, and the 29,186 condo apartments sold across the GTA were the most ever on record and a 30 per cent increase from 2015.

Due to challenges such as out-of-date zoning, lengthy approvals processes and NIMBYism, supply is not keeping pace with sales.

According to BILD member Urbanation, the number of new condo apartments available for purchase across the GTA is at a 10-year low. Based on the current pace of sales, there is only about 4.4 months of condo unit supply, well below the 10 months needed for a balanced market, says the company which has been tracking the high-rise market since 1981.

The lack of supply will lead to a slowdown in sales and Urbanation is predicting that in 2017 there will only be 23,000 new condo unit sold in the GTA.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

MEET THE CONDO

Yonge and Eg's newest development

Project overview

Located at sought-after Yonge and Eglinton, Plaza Midtown boasts a walkscore of 99. Its two towers will augment this rapidly evolving neighbourhood and are well connected with access to anywhere in the city.

In the neighbourhood

The condo is located near the bustling intersection of Yonge and Eglinton, with its vibrant urban nightlife. Nearby is the Yonge Eglinton Centre, the SilverCity and Cineplex theatres, La Vecchia and Fresh on Eglinton.

Location and transit

Plaza Midtown is situated in a highly-walkable and transit-friendly location, steps from the Eglinton TTC subway platform, and the soon-to-be Eglinton Crosstown LRT. It's also close to bicycle lanes and the Don Valley Parkway, so you can be in the downtown core within 15 minutes.

Housing amenities

Amenities will feature a 24-hour concierge service, a party room, a terrace with barbecues, an outdoor swimming pool, a fitness centre and guest suites. Units will have nine-foot ceilings, laminate flooring, quartz kitchen countertops and stainless appliances.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Plaza Midtown condos and towns
Builder: Plaza
Architect: Quadrangle Architects
Location: Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue
Building: Two condominium buildings of 34 and 27 storeys, plus eight townhouses
Sizes: From 600 to 1,700 square feet
Suites: One bedroom plus den, two bedroom, three bedroom, as well as townhouse units
Pricing: Starting from the low $400,000s
Status: Pre-construction phase, now registering
Occupancy: 2021
Sales centre: Coming soon
Email: midtown@plazacorp.com
Website: pureplaza.com

CONTRIBUTED

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NEW RELEASE

Lake Shore Village: A new collection of three-bedroom townhomes in Etobicoke has been announced. Located at 68 Daisy Ave., the units have two-car parking and rooftop decks. Contact: (416) 318-9112, dunparhome.com

2 OPEN HOUSE

Scoop Condominiums: Stop by the presentation centre for a raffle and pre-construction pricing. Feb. 18-19 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., 1771 St. Clair W. Contact: (416) 656-1717, scoopcondos.com

3 NEW RELEASE

Seasons Condominiums Upper House: A limited edition of top-tier suites are now available at Concord Park Place in North York. Check out the presentation centre at 1001 Sheppard Ave. E. Contact: (416) 813-2999, concordseasons.ca

LEGAL MATTERS

Black toilet water makes buyer pause

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: I am scheduled to close the purchase of a resale home tomorrow and my realtor and I did an inspection, a couple of weeks after the tenants had moved out.

We found the second floor main bathroom toilet was full of black water. We attempted to flush the toilet and it wouldn't work.

We're afraid this may be a sign of bigger problems such as tree roots in the pipe that goes out to the City sewage service. What should we do?

A: Although tree roots is a common problem, in asking the reader if any of the other toilets in the house were affected I was told no.

My educated guess was that the toilet had been plugged before the tenants moved out and because no one was around, the water stood in the toilet for an extended period of time and turned black. A simple visit by a plumber should give you an answer.

In fact, the vendor did hire a plumber, there was a paper plug and when unplugged, the water ran nice and clear. Problem averted.

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The right steps to refinish stairways

HOME REPAIR

Contractors offer best tips on what can be a messy job

Stairs and stairways are often last on the list when it comes to home renovations, even though they are frequently the first thing you and everyone else sees upon opening the front door.

Although not prohibitively expensive, refurbishing stairs is a messy and skilled job beyond the reach of average DIYers. The basics, though, aren't hard to grasp and with a little help you can take the first steps to elevate your stairs.

Older homes, especially, will need stair repairs and upgrades, says Jordan Spear, a RenoMark contractor.

When it comes to restoring staircases, "the first thing is to look at the structure for safety," says Spear, who specializes in restoring century homes. "You want to make sure the treads aren't too worn and 'cupping,' and that the nosing is secure and that the railing is all secure and the components solid."

Refinishing and staining

First, assess the wood, says Chris Palmer, also a RenoMark contractor who was an industrial designer before appearing on TV shows such as Canada's Handyman Challenge, Income Property, Open House Overhaul and serving as Global TV's resident handyman expert.

Stairs made from good hardwood, such as oak or maple, are usually worth refinishing. Peel back a section of carpet or runner to check the wood. If it's low-grade pine or spruce (called "builder grade") then painting, capping or re-carpeting are the only options, says TV contractor Damon Bennett, another RenoMark contractor.

If you're lucky, you might need to just replace the most damaged treads. To refinish, remove the carpet and underpad, pull out all the staples, then fill and sand before painting or staining.

"You can't put water-based stains on oil-based stains, so make sure you get the right product," says Spear.

Capping

An alternative to re-carpeting is re-treading, or capping with new treads. Sometimes called false treads, they can sit on top of the existing ones. After that it's a matter of replacing or re-painting the risers.

Re-treading involves knocking out the existing treads. Replacing them and capping aren't as easy as it sounds, warn the renovators.

Capping will also change the rise of the step and you'll be short at the top and high at the bottom. Even just a half-inch difference can cause a stumble. There are veneer tread options in the $20-$30 range but the ideal is solid wood, at $30 and up, depending on the type of wood. Also, you'll either have to make your winders (the triangle-shaped larger treads that allow for a turn), or have them made.

To have a set of 14 stairs capped with red oak treads and risers, including three winders, (plus a corresponding new banister with new newels and spindles) will cost $5,000-6,000 — or more, depending on where you are, who does the work and how much labour is required.

Painting

With worn or low-grade stairs, aside from re-carpeting or capping, the other option is painting.

As with staining, prep is everything. Pull out all the staples, fill in the holes then sand, sand and sand again. A shop-vac attachment for your sander will help, as will sealing the work area with plastic sheeting. Wear a dust mask and eye protection.

Check out the pro-level painting stores such as Dulux, Sherwin-Williams or Benjamin Moore for their special tread paint that's water based and designed to take foot traffic. If there's a previous oil-based stain or paint on the stairs, you'll need a bonding and transition coat of primer.

A good paint supplier can match the paint to the trim or to the wall. Painting the treads a dark colour and the trim and risers in white is a popular look.

Railings, carpet and rods

If you're re-carpeting because the wood isn't worth refinishing, consider upgrading the entire look with new railings.

Do you replace wood spindles with wrought-iron or vice versa? Esthetics aside, it's also question of skill. Taking a railing apart can be tricky, notes Bennett.

"You can't cut them out if you want to use them again so you've really got to be careful," he says. "If you don't do it right, it will look off. It's really best to get someone in who has the experience and skill."

Stair runners are for both esthetics and firm footing, especially for kids and seniors.

Runners can be bought by the foot and installed. Or you can have carpet cut and the edges bound to create your own runner.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANATOMY

Parts of a staircase, explained

1 Riser
The vertical face between treads.

2 Tread
The step part of a stairs.

3 Nosing
The rounded part of the tread. Some stairs are flat with no nosing, also called a bull nose.

4 Newel post
The vertical posts at the bottom and top of the stairs which the railings attach to.

5 Bannister
Also called a handrail.

6 Spindles
Also known as balustrades, they are the vertical pieces which make up the railing.

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"It's still like a World Series tour. We've got to turn the page": Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant

No more doubt as to how Sanchez fits in

MLB

Pitcher not bogged down by job security, innings limit

Aaron Sanchez came into spring training this year with a different mentality than in the past.

For the first time in his major-league career, the 24-year-old right-hander doesn't have to prove he's worthy of a spot in the Blue Jays' starting rotation after his dominant season last year. He's using that lack of pressure to sharpen his arsenal.

"The last few years I've come in having to compete for a spot," Sanchez said Wednesday after his first official workout of the spring. "This year I have the luxury of (getting) to work on things. I feel like I made tremendous strides with my curveball last season and even in the off-season so my focus this year is on the change-up."

Sanchez threw his change-up just 270 times in 2016 — or nine per cent of the time — striking out 10 batters with it, but also giving up seven hits including a home run.

"I don't want to get too caught up in it," he said. "Just enough to have that comfort with it to take it into the regular season."

Sanchez helped anchor Toronto's rotation last year, going 15-2 with an American League-best 3.00 earned-run average. And he did it while on an innings limit.

Wanting to protect their young pitcher's valuable arm, the organization debated sending Sanchez to the bullpen midway through the season. His performance in the rotation, however, made the decision more difficult.

In a compromise, Toronto opted to manage his innings by skipping a few of his starts.

Sanchez finished the regular season with 192 innings (plus 11-2/3 in the post-season), more than doubling his 2015 total (92-1/3) when he was used as a reliever for the second half of the year.

"I think last year I showed limitations shouldn't be an issue," Sanchez said. "I'll leave that up to management and how they feel but I'm ready to go. I put the work in and I'm excited to see how this year shakes out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Our goal is to get one step further, really ... A little different look this year, no doubt about that, but it's still a good, solid team.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons

Aaron Sanchez warms up during his first official workout of the spring on Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

3.00

Sanchez's AL-leading ERA last season.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said he wasn't worried about Sanchez's innings this season.

"Yeah, I don't see any limitations," Gibbons said. "He ended up throwing a full year last year. He's a big strong kid, he worked really hard this winter. We're going to monitor him here in spring training and back him off a little bit ... we'll keep an eye on that but he's good to go. No concerns." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Ibaka uplifted by chance with Raps

Serge Ibaka flashed a wide smile, and said he is excited to play for a winner again.

The Toronto Raptors hope the newcomer can help turn them back into one.

Ibaka, who was acquired in Tuesday's trade that sent Terrence Ross to Orlando, arrived at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday amid renewed optimism. The Raptors are hoping the athletic power forward can help pull them out of their worst slump in two seasons, while Ibaka is happy to be back with a team in the playoff race.

"For me it's kind of going up again, going back in competition again and playing for something. I'm very excited," said Ibaka, wearing a navy blue wool tuque suitable for his new northern home. "One thing I know is the last two years (the Raptors) were going up, up, up. I saw last year what they did in the playoffs and it was impressive."

Serge Ibaka
GETTY IMAGES

It's been down, down, down, however, for Toronto the past few weeks. Heading into Wednesday's matchup against visiting Charlotte, the Raptors had lost 11 of 15 games and plummeted from second to fifth in the Eastern Conference.

Orlando is 14th in the East, six spots out of the playoff race.

Because of this weekend's NBA all-star break, Raptors fans will have to wait until Feb. 24, when Toronto hosts the Boston Celtics to see Ibaka. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Wednesday night's Hornets-Raptors game

Equality statement made in Big Easy

The city hosting this year's NBA All-Star Game has long enjoyed a reputation as a welcoming place for the gay and lesbian community. New Orleans is home to one of the country's oldest gay bars, the gay celebration Southern Decadence draws nearly 200,000 people yearly, and gay and lesbian authors flock there for the Saints and Sinners literary festival.

All of that acceptance will be on full display this weekend in a not-so-subtle statement about equality.

The city of Charlotte was supposed to host the game Sunday, but the NBA moved it to New Orleans when North Carolina passed "the bathroom bill," which limits protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people. It also requires transgender people to use many public restrooms corresponding with the sex on their birth certificate.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards touted the state's diversity while lobbying the NBA, saying bringing the game to New Orleans would reaffirm the league's "commitment to communities that value fairness and inclusion."

Just last year, Edwards signed an executive order barring discrimination against LGBTQ state workers and contractors.

The NBA has stated the issue of LGBTQ inclusion played a role in moving the game to New Orleans as did the city's ability to work under a tight deadline on big events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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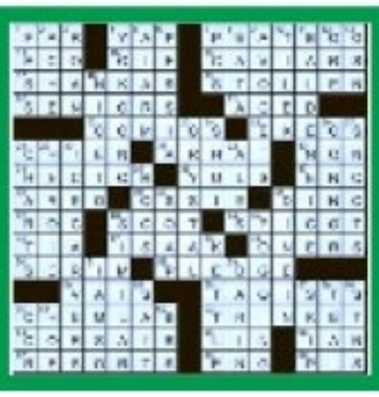

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2	4	3	9	6	5	1	7	8
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Arsenal staring at exit door after Bayern rout

Robert Lewandowski heads in Bayern's second goal in its Champions League first-leg match against Arsenal on Wednesday in Munich. ALEX GRIMM/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Thiago double helps Munich put one foot in quarter-finals

Bayern Munich answered its critics with a comprehensive 5-1 rout of Arsenal in the first leg of their Champions League clash to put one foot in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Thiago Alcantara struck twice in a superb performance, while Arjen Robben, Robert Lewandowski and substitute Thomas Muller scored the other goals. Arsenal now faces what seems a near-impossible task in the second leg of the Round of 16 on March 7, despite a first-half equalizer from Alexis Sanchez.

Bayern had been unconvincing in its five games since the winter break but the home side soon took control of the game.

There was little Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina could do to stop Robben from opening the scoring in the 11th minute. Given too much space, the Dutchman cut inside as he's done so often before and let fly with a shot that went in off the underside of the bar.

Arsenal was given a lifeline when Lewandowski took down Arsenal captain Laurent Koscielny in the box and the referee awarded the penalty before the half-hour mark. Amid deafening whistles from the home fans, Manuel Neuer saved Sanchez's weak spot kick and Sanchez then missed the rebound but the Chilean cut the Bayern fans' cheers short when he prodded in the third attempt.

But it was all Bayern for the second half as Lewandowski rose above two defenders to head into a 2-1 lead on 53 minutes. The Poland striker produced a brilliant back-heeled flick to send Thiago through to score another three minutes later. Thiago grabbed his second a few minutes later, with a deflected shot after a corner, before Muller completed the rout two minutes after he came on in the 86th.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN MADRID

Real come from behind to earn first-leg advantage

Defending champion Real Madrid recovered after conceding a stunning early goal to beat Napoli 3-1 on Wednesday and stay on track for its seventh straight appearance in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and Casemiro all scored for Madrid after Lorenzo Insigne's extraordinary long-range goal for Napoli less than 10 minutes into the Round of 16 first-leg match at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Lesnar retires from mixed martial arts

Former UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar has informed the mixed martial arts promotion that he is retired from competition.

The UFC confirmed the former heavyweight champion's decision Wednesday.

Lesnar, 39, returned from a 4.5-year MMA absence last July to beat Mark Hunt at UFC 200, but the result was overturned after Lesnar failed two doping tests. He was subsequently suspended from competition for a year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which administers the UFC's doping policy.

Brock Lesnar GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Nyquist gets 6-game ban

Detroit Red Wings forward Gustav Nyquist has been suspended for six games for high-sticking Minnesota Wild defenceman Jared Spurgeon during a game last weekend.

The incident occurred in the first period in Sunday's game between the clubs, a 6-3 Wild win. Spurgeon had cross-checked Nyquist from behind near the boards, and Nyquist came up swinging, using the blade of his stick to spear Spurgeon just below his left eye.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTP cuts rugby 7s funding

Rugby Canada expected to take a hit on Own The Podium funding for its men's sevens team. But it did not expect the entire well to dry up.

Own The Podium has told Rugby Canada that the men's sevens squad, which got $850,000 in OTP recommended funding in 2016-17, won't get anything in fiscal 2017-18.

The Canadian men failed to crack the 12-team field for the Rio Olympics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Riders sign the Flyin' Hawaiian Owens

The Flyin' Hawaiian is heading to Riderville.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders signed American receiver/returner Chad Owens to a two-year contract Wednesday, the second day of free agency. It's the second new team in as many seasons for the 34-year-old Honolulu native, who played last year for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats following a six-year stint with the Toronto Argonauts.

"If there is a place I want to play and finish my career, it's Saskatchewan," Owens said.

Chad Owens THE CANADIAN PRESS

The five-foot-seven 180-pound Owens was league's outstanding special-teams player in 2010 as an Argo before adding the CFL's outstanding player honour in 2012. He has 504 career catches for 5,982 yards and 25 TDs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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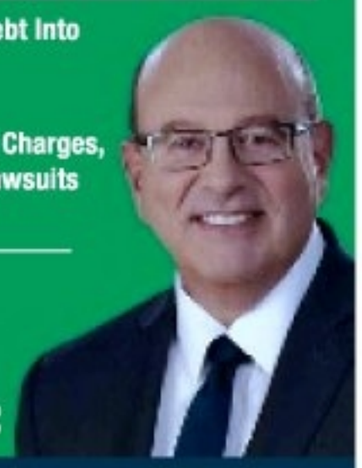

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Creamy Caprese Skillet Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A one-pot meal offering the classic flavours of sweet basil and tomatoes with creamy cheese.

Ready in minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 6-8 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup bocconcini
- 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400.

2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and then generously season with salt and pepper.

3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.

4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

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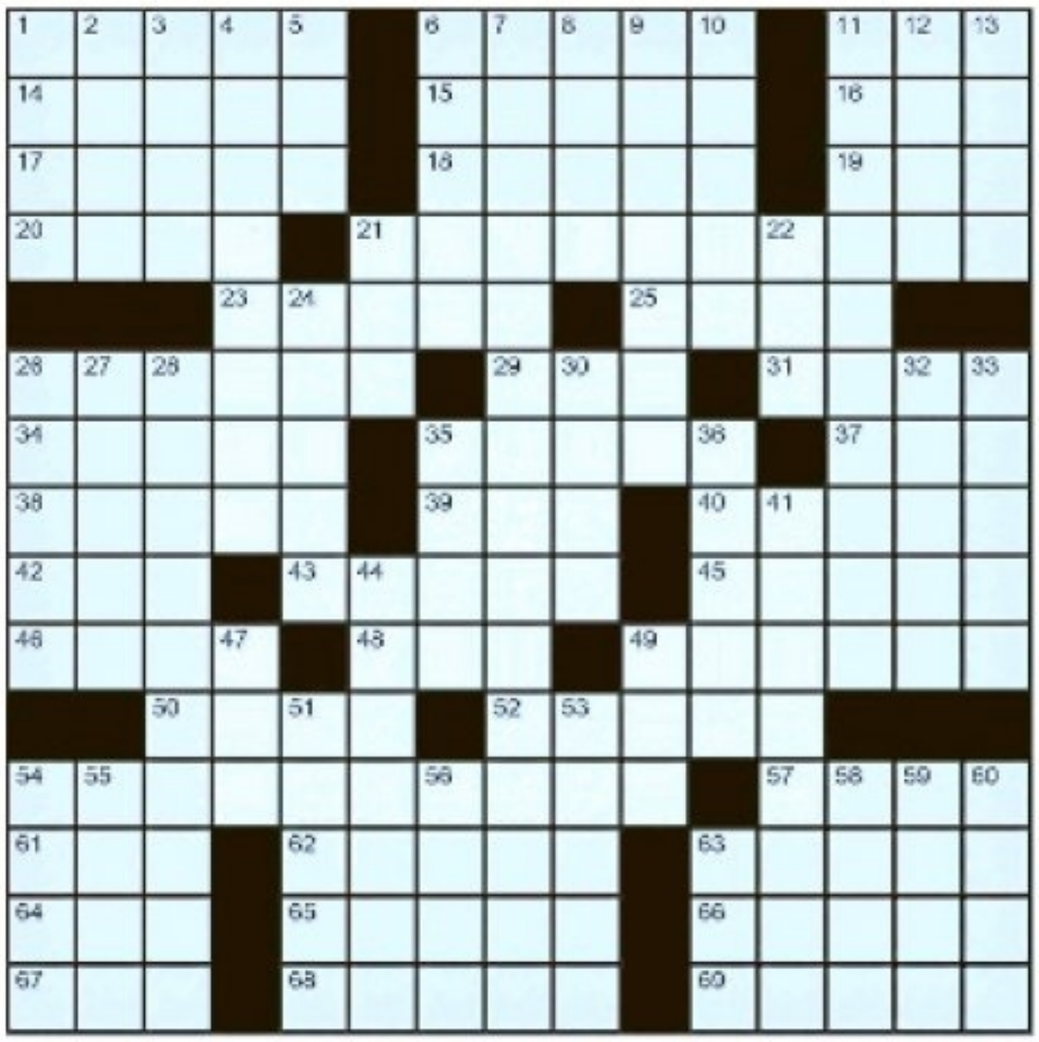
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Movie
6. "The table __ __." (Helpful dinner-time comment)
11. Tree's fluid
14. Pliant/agile
15. Put __ __ (Get working)
16. Make the score even
17. "__ Which Way But Loose" (1978)
18. West: French
19. Pro golfer Ernie
20. Half, in Hull
21. Most like bread's famous spread
23. Strip of mown lawn
25. Table salt, chemistry-style
26. Indifference
29. The Beeb
31. Mr. Kristofferson
34. "The Godfather" (1972) syndicate
35. Herd-heralded
37. Rapscallion
38. More likely to
39. Not in fashion
40. Adversary
42. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
43. People from Helsinki's country
45. __-3 fatty acid
46. Baby Atlantic Herring, for short
48. 'Sure' sign
49. Nova Scotia's provincial bird
50. Big bathing basins
52. Trunk
54. Daytime TV dramas: 2 wds.
57. Young sheep
61. Sneeze starters...
62. __ Marner (1861 novel)
63. Jewel
64. Meet for a meeting
65. Elliptical path
66. Etruria's environs
67. Horticulturist's implement
68. Financial resources
69. Fathers: French

DOWN
1. Escaped
2. 1995: "Lightning Crashes" band
3. Detail
4. Modelling legend Ms. Brinkley
5. Important
6. "We Can Work __ __" by The Beatles
7. 1971 song by #11-Down: 2 wds.
8. Tallow source
9. Gist
10. Bright pet fish
11. Canadian band with the hit "Ten Pound Note", as well as #7-Down: 2 wds.
12. Is feeling poorly
13. Nuisance
21. James or Hudson
22. "Eeew!"
24. Dock
26. Stockpile
27. __ New Guinea
28. Leftover flavour
30. C-3PO, et al.
32. Effigy
33. Flare
35. Uni
36. Smeltery waste
41. Discourteous
44. Motivate in a way
47. Clone or copy, curtly
49. Alternative words
51. Tom Hanks sitcom, "__ Buddies"
53. Brewery kilns
54. Belt alternative
55. 2004: "__ Is for Lovers" by Hawthorne Heights
56. British actor Idris
58. Slightly open
59. Sort of spy
60. Purchases
63. Marcel Marceau's clown

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Talk to groups or classes today, especially with younger people. This also is a good day to do some goal setting for the future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are mentally energetic today, which is why you will make a good impression talking to bosses, parents and VIPs. Don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is easy to study today or learn anything new. You also will love to make travel plans and have discussions about philosophy, religion, politics and metaphysics.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to discuss shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. You have the mental energy to plow through a lot of red-tape details.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions with partners and close friends will be lively and dynamic today. Everyone is full of bright ideas, and of course, you are quick to see the bottom line and grasp the big picture.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This will be a productive day at work because you can communicate well with others. In addition, you have the energy to work with your hands and accomplish something.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are creative today. Get busy working in the arts, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or anything to do with sports or children.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an excellent day to tackle home repairs. It's also a great day for family discussions, because you have a desire to communicate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Writers, salespeople, actors and teachers are empowered today. You are keen to communicate and you have great ideas. This is because your mental energy is strong.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're full of moneymaking ideas today. It's a good idea to write them down in case you want to act on one of them later. (It's not every day that we have bright ideas.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury is in your sign now, which is why you are so keen to communicate to others. You have ideas and dreams, and you want to enlighten others by sharing these ideas.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Research of any kind will go well today, because you have the motivation, stamina and the attention to detail that is needed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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The family car has come a long way, and this year manufacturers at the AutoShow will showcase a variety of luxury family-friendly vehicles, including the Lexus ES. CONTRIBUTED

Hyundai Elantra. CONTRIBUTED

Toyota Avalon. CONTRIBUTED

Haul the kids around in style

CAR MODELS

Five family vehicles that make the grade

Ross Fattori

In the 1980s and '90s, minivans were considered the go-to family car for a variety of reasons: they were spacious, economical, reliable and safe.

The family car has come a long way in two decades. Today, its definition depends on the age and number of children that you will be moving around and can include compact sedans, crossovers, SUVs and minivans.

At the AutoShow, manufacturers will showcase a wide array of models that fit into the category of family car. Here are five worth checking out:

Subaru Impreza Hatchback: This entry-level compact is perfect for young families with active lifestyles. It comes with the Subaru symmetrical full-time AWD system, which provides great traction in winter conditions. The 2017 model is available as a four-door sedan or a five-door hatch/wagon, and it boasts a 40 per cent better crash absorption than previous models. There is also plenty of cargo space to accommodate the kids' stuff.

Lexus ES: Consumer Reports tag this midsize luxury sedan as one of the best for families with teenage children. With the ES, there is ample space in the back seats for growing children, and leg room is not an issue. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has given the ES the highest Top Safety Pick+ distinction with top ratings across the board in its moderate-overlap front-impact, side-impact and roof strength tests.

Toyota Avalon: This family car is equipped with full-size features and stylish looks. The 2017 model boasts a spacious interior and a host of high-tech gadgets, such as Toyota's advanced display audio system with a 6.95-in. touchscreen, Bluetooth® and audio streaming capability. Children will appreciate the backseat centre console with AC/heater vents, a household-type power outlet for power-hungry electronics and the well-padded seats.

Hyundai Elantra: This sixth-generation Elantra is a compact sedan that delivers a class-above experience at a reasonable price. For 2017 Elantra, Hyundai's engineers created a new structure composed of its advanced high-strength steel, which has led to a new level of ride comfort with smooth, precise handling, improved interior quietness and enhanced safety.

Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid: As Canada's first-ever and only hybrid minivan, the 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid offers family-friendly functionality and money-saving fuel efficiency. It gets up to 53 km full electric range and up to 911 total driving range, with seating for up to seven, available hands-free sliding doors and liftgate, ample cargo space, and more.

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AWD Limited model shown.
2017 RAV4

XSE model shown.
2017 COROLLA

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XSE model shown.
2017 CAMRY

V6 XLE model shown.
2016 VENZA

2016 VENZA

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150 years of car-making history

THE CANADIAN STORY

Aficionados to honour proud tradition of manufacturing

Yvonne Marton

With its jaunty red carriage wheels, stove-pipe style chimney and gleaming brass fittings, the restored Canadian 1867 Seth Taylor Steam Buggy (top speed 24 km/h) is just one of the many automotive jewels on display in this year's the Art and the Automobile exhibit at the Canadian International AutoShow.

Appropriately themed "The Canadian Story" for Canada's 150th anniversary, the steam buggy crafted by Henry Seth Taylor, a Quebec jeweler and watchmaker, demonstrates the era's spirit of curiousity.

"People were fascinated with machinery," says Sharon Babaian, land and marine transport curator with the Canada Science and Technology Museum, which is providing the steam buggy.

"The wooden carriage part wouldn't have survived…it was rotted but the metal parts survived rather well including the cylinders that Taylor built. And when you look at them, they're absolutely gorgeous — these beautiful brass cylinders and the drive shaft as well.

"He built it the way he would have built a piece of jewelry, beautifully and robustly."

With decorative oil cups and additional flourishes, the Seth Taylor was driven and displayed, though never manufactured.

Rob McLeese, founder and chair of the Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance, north of Owen Sound, and the exhibit's presenter, says the Seth Taylor is important to this year's theme.

"It's a very interesting vehicle. What I find interesting is it happened to coincide with Canada's confederation. People think we were way behind but we really weren't."

Automobile aficionados often bemoan the sameness of today's cars and the exhibit is a testament to the wide variety of vehicles that were produced in the past.

Babaian explains: "In the early years of the automobile nothing was settled. There were steam cars, there were electric cars and there were gasoline cars and they all had their strengths and weaknesses. But what they all had to deal with in the very early years was there was not any infrastructure." (A familiar complaint of today's electric vehicle owners.)

The 2015 people's choice award went to the 1929 Packard 645-Dual-Cowl Phaeton. The historic vehicle was on display at the 2015 Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance hosted at Cobble Beach Golf Course on Sept. 13, 2015. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This beautiful 1931 Cadillac roadster is displayed in front of an advertisement drawn in the Art Deco style of the time period. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Carriage makers, agricultural implement makers, bicycle makers — even metalworking businesses had some of the skills to make automobiles. And what they couldn't make, they imported.

Visitors may be particularly interested in the 1910 McKay produced in Nova Scotia and the 1914 Russell made here in Toronto by the Russell Motor Car Co., a division of CCM which stood for the Canada Cycle and Motor Co. — the only Canadian company to produce its own engine.

As enterprises formed, Babaian notes there was an active business climate: the buying of licences, sharing of patents and partnerships with American companies. The exhibit also features a 1927 McLaughlan-Buick owned by collector Tony Land. It was built for a five-week tour by the Prince of Wales and Prince George to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Confederation.

McLeese, who started putting out calls six months ago to line up 17 important classics, has mined his impressive connections within the Canadian vintage car community. And it's paid off: there are rare specimens like a 1903 Columbus electric (produced in Columbus, Ohio, but owned by a Canadian collector.)

Displayed in the 10,000 square-foot-space (700 level, South Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre) the cars are all magnificently restored and are at or near the "concours" level of condition. So it goes without saying they're all behind a velvet rope.

> **He built it (1867 Seth Taylor Steam Buggy) the way he would have built a piece of jewelry, beautifully and robustly.**
> Sharon Babaian, curator, Canada Science and Technology Museum

BACKGROUND

Art and the Automobile exhibit to feature Seth Taylor Steam Buggy

One of the automotive jewels on display at the Canadian International AutoShow is the Seth Taylor Steam Buggy.

Reaching a top speed of 24 km/h, the Steam Buggy was crafted by Quebec Jeweler Henry Seth and features beautiful brass cylinders and decorative oil cups.

With our country's long and proud tradition of manufacturing automobiles, there are enthusiastic Canadian collectors who are noted for the wealth of knowledge and dedication to preservation and education.

For example, no one knows the Cadillac marque like London, Ont.'s Steve Plunkett. With 50 important Caddys in his private collection of 86 GM cars, he's displaying his 1949 Cadillac Concept — the world's first Cadillac Coup de Ville — a custom hardtop once owned by Charles Wilson, former president of GM. It's also the oldest surviving Motorama Dream Car.

Though not made in Canada, it was emblematic of the technological advances introduced by GM — many through its Cadillac range. Some of those accomplishments include the first mass-produced V-8 engine, the electric starter, Delco electric, Positraction, StabiliTrak, the Northstar system, safety glass, OnStar and multi-cylinder displacement, to name a few.

An admitted gearhead, Plunkett also enjoys automotive history.

"I love a car with a story. I have four custom-built Cadillacs: a 1938 Cadillac Bunn Bodied Roadster owned by New York's Pulitzer family, the 49 Concept, a 1941 Custom Cadillac Limo built for King Edward and named 'The Duchess,' as well as a '34 Cadillac Series 452D V16."

There are many special cars featured in Art and the Automobile "The Canadian Story" but one is likely of special interest to many Ontarians.

"The newest car is a 1967 Camaro," McLeese says proudly. "And that particular car is a wonderful specimen. It's a concours car and, because it's the 50th year of the Camaro, we thought what a fitting way to finish off the first 100 years."

With 150 years of car-making behind us, McLeese, who attended the U.S. Presidential inauguration and had meetings with industry players in Washington, remains optimistic despite the trade rhetoric about "the Canadian story" yet to be written.

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- Remote start system
- Front heated seats

15% **OFF MSRP**[**] ON SELECT 2016 MODELS Limited quantities available

OR CHOOSE **0%** FINANCING[†] FOR UP TO **60 MONTHS**

FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO **$7,078** IN CASH DISCOUNTS[➤]

Starting From Price for 2017 Jeep Cherokee North shown: $33,040.[§]

Starting From Price for 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: $41,940.[§]

2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

CANADA'S BEST-SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 33 YEARS

$66 WEEKLY FINANCING[†] @ **3.49%** FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

STEP UP TO THE 2017 ULTIMATE FAMILY PACKAGE AND GET **$10,850** IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS[◊]

- Tri-zone temperature control
- Entertainment group
- Uconnect® hands free
- SXT Plus group

2017 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

THE MOST VERSATILE CROSSOVER IN ITS CLASS[2]

$64 WEEKLY FINANCING[‡] @ **3.49%** FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

STEP UP TO THE 2017 ULTIMATE FAMILY PACKAGE AND GET **$5,200** IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS[◊]

- Navigation and sound group
- Uconnect® hands free
- Rear seat DVD

20% **OFF MSRP**[**] ON SELECT 2016 MODELS Limited quantities available

FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO **$7,097** IN CASH DISCOUNTS[➤]

Starting From Price for 2017 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $35,640.[§]

REBUILDING YOUR CREDIT? SPECIAL RATES AS LOW AS 4.99% OAC[=]

Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM chryslercanada.ca/offers

SiriusXM DODGE Caravan Kids PROUD SPONSOR OF MINOR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA

Wise customers read the fine print: †, ◊, *, **, ‡, ➤, ~, § The Cold Cash Hot Deals Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after February 1, 2017. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,795), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for 84/60 months available on select new models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2017 Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 (25A)/2017 Jeep Cherokee North FWD (24J) with a purchase price of $34,708/$31,980 financed at 0% for 84/60 months equals 364/260 weekly payments of $95/$123, with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $34,708/$31,980. ◊$10,850 in Total Discounts is available on 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan Ultimate Family Package and consist of $6,500 Consumer Cash, $2,500 DVD Bonus Cash Program and $1,850 Bonus Cash. $5,200 in Total Discounts available on the 2017 Dodge Journey Ultimate Family Package and consist of $1,500 Consumer Cash, $2,500 DVD Bonus Cash Program and $1,200 Bonus Cash. $6,250 in Total Discounts is available on 2017 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $6,250 in Consumer Cash. See your retailer for complete details. *The Make No Payments for 90 Days event is a limited time offer which applies to retail customers who finance a select new 2016/2017 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT vehicle at a special fixed rate on approved credit through a participating financial institution. Monthly/bi-weekly/weekly payments will be deferred for 60 days and contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. Customers will be responsible for any required down payment, license, registration and insurance costs at time of contract. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. **15% - 20% off MSRP discount available to retail customers on the purchase/lease of all in-stock 2016 models at all participating retailers from February 1 - 17, 2017. Discounts are calculated based on MSRP plus options, freight, A/C and tire charge and will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Percentage off MSRP discount cannot be combined any other bonus cash or consumer cash offer. Retailer may sell for less. See retailer for complete details. ‡3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2017 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan CVP (29E)/2017 Dodge Journey CVP (22F)/2017 Jeep Cherokee North FWD (24J) with a Purchase Price of $24,087/$23,209/$31,980 with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 416 weekly payments of $66/$64/$88 with a cost of borrowing of $3,526.84/$3,398.28/$4,682.54 and a total obligation of $27,613.84/$26,607.28/$36,662.54. ➤Cash Discounts is based on 15%/20% off MSRP of 2016 Jeep Cherokee/2016 Dodge Journey, plus freight. A/C and tire charge will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ~Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2016 models. Financing examples: Purchase Price of $30,000 with a $1,000 down payment, financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $189/$202 with a cost of borrowing of $5,418.76/$7,753.86 and a total finance obligation of $34,418.76/$36,753.86. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. Certain features of vehicles shown – e.g., interior colour – may not be offered on all models. See retailer for details. [1]Based on 2014 WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. [2]Based on the latest available competitive information and WardsAuto Middle Cross Utility segmentation. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. Based on availability of I-4 and V6 powertrains, front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive, 5- and 7-passenger seating, second-row removable in-floor storage bins, integrated child booster seats, front-passenger in-seat storage and forward fold-flat front passenger seat. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

A hassle-free car shopping trip

For nearly two decades, Jim Martyn was a mainstay at the Canadian International AutoShow, working for this manufacturer or that one. He was one of those people you find standing around exhibits, ready and able to answer any and all questions. We asked him to jot down some notes about how people should prepare before going to the AutoShow. This is what he turned in

JIM MARTYN

Rich Hurley and his son Jasper take a look at Honda 2016 Fit at the 2016 Canadian International AutoShow. TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

AutoShow goers walk by an Alpha Romeo ad at last year's show. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Showgoers take over the south building at the 2016 Canadian International AutoShow. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PLAN AHEAD

Follow these guidelines to make the most of your day

After nearly two decades at "The Show" it seems rather matter of fact ... but it also became almost instinctive. It was never "work."

It seems only logical, but I'll say it anyway: Get a good night's rest before setting out, if you want to make the best of it.

Check the website to make sure you don't miss any of the special attractions you might not see again. There are some great ones, such as Fifty Years of Grand Prix Racing in Canada, the Art and the Automobile exhibit from the Cobble Beach Concours and the restored masterpiece from Legendary Motorcar.

Asking questions will keep your day interesting. Talk to the staff. If they have to ask another representative for an answer, everyone's the better for it.

Essentials before you leave the house should include debit card, keys, coats, whatever shoes the weather dictates (maybe a backpack if you want to take a second, more comfortable, pair) and fluids. Water is a prerequisite because the comfortably heated environment is usually drained of a noticeable amount of humidity, and by the end of the day your eyes, skin and throat can get parched.

And your phone! Don't forget your phone.

Go to the north building first (it's on Front Street) if you're travelling with a small party. Go south first if you take the family. Some of the youngsters (ages eight and under) would probably have a better time in the supervised VW Children's Play Zone, while the bigger kids look at cars.

Speaking of preparation and kids, I'd like to pass along a borrowed idea. Some parents equip the little ones with a "business card." It's a little note that can be tucked into a pocket with their name and mom or dad's cell number. I've even heard of parents pinning it to their child's shirt!

Getting to the show downtown at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre is simple, thanks to the invention of GO trains, the TTC and Presto cards. The need for a car everywhere else is partly why we have things like auto shows every year, but making it to the most central place in the GTA couldn't be easier due to public transit.

It's a short walk from the subway or GO Train (Union Station) to the show. Make use of the coat checks so you don't have to lug around bulky winter outerwear, and give yourself the freedom to walk anywhere once you get inside the show. If you're not crazy about all that walking, though, don't forget the shuttle buses that run between the north and south buildings — and enjoy the chance to take a load off for the 10-minute ride.

Visiting with a group? Don't set foot inside without first checking that phones are charged and determining a meeting point for everyone. Whether you plan to regroup at the end of the day, for a meal or in case of emergency, it's crucial to decide on a clear meeting point first, with a specific time and a number to call.

Every floor of the AutoShow has food available, but if you want to take a break or get a breath of fresh air, Front Street has a dozen great restaurants and coffee shops. In addition to the wealth of product information the car show product reps can share, they also know where you can get the best lunch deals within walking distance.

The most-asked questions of the show staff are: "Where are the restrooms?" "Does this come in another colour?" And the increasingly frequent, "Has anybody found or turned in a phone?" People rely on their smartphones to take photos and track family members at events such as these, but that's when they are most prone to be lost. A tip for men: take your phone out of your pants pocket. Put it in your shirt or jacket instead.

It's not really survival. It's a great event.

QUICK TIPS

1. Be sure to get a good night's sleep before you set out.
2. Look at the website to plan your day.
3. Consider using public transit to get to the show.
4. Be sure to ask questions.
5. Take advantage of the coat check.
6. Use the shuttle buses.
7. Make sure you bring your phone and water.
8. Decide on a meeting point early in the day.

"Some parents equip the little ones with a 'business card.' It's a little note that can be tucked into a pocket with their name and mom or dad's cell number.

BMW's latest 5 Series brings features and technology from the marque's flagship 7 Series into the executive realm. The BMW M760Li xDrive will make an appearance at this year's Canadian International AutoShow. CONTRIBUTED

New models steal the spotlight

UNVEILING

Show to roll out vehicles for first Canadian appearance

Brian Early

While most of us locals simply call it "the auto show," this annual consumer show and automotive exhibition is properly titled the "Canadian International AutoShow."

As the event has evolved over the past 40-odd years, it has become much more than a gathering of the latest new cars — even though with more than 1,000 vehicles claimed to be on site, the show certainly provides the best possible opportunity to sit in, research and compare new models, if you're in the market.

Of course, an important part of any auto show is still the really new models: concept cars and stuff so advanced they're not out yet — or, better still, have never before been seen. Living up to the "International" in its name, the Canadian International AutoShow will indeed be hosting at least one global unveiling, with Hyundai expected to reveal, well, something for the first time ever (as of press time, exactly what's in store had not been announced).

The show will also have the honour of being the first to display the Aston Martin-Red Bull AM-RB 001 supercar concept, which has never appeared on this continent, let alone in public, since being unveiled in England last July.

Those are just the tips of the iceberg: Close to 40 other vehicles are making their first Canadian appearance at this year's show. Here's a selection to watch for.

Look no further than the 2018 Honda Odyssey for your family needs. Considered one of the best mini-vans in the industry, the Odyssey features the latest technology sure to keep the everyone entertained. CONTRIBUTED

1) It's performance overload at Audi's booth this year, with the 354hp SQ5 crossover and 400hp turbo five cylinder-powered TT RS and RS3 sedan joining the gorgeous R8 Spyder as a quartet of new models for the four-ring brand.

2) BMW's latest 5 Series brings features and technology from the marque's flagship 7 Series into the executive realm, while the Bavarian automaker's Mini division introduces a contender for longest model name, the Mini Cooper S E Countryman ALL4, a plug-in hybrid version of the latest, largest Mini model.

3) For 2018, Ford's two most revered nameplates, Mustang and F-150, have received nips and tucks, adding new technology to the 'Stang and a dose of Super Duty bravado to the best-selling F-150. The Blue Oval's Lincoln Division will tease the next generation of its big luxury ute with its Navigator Concept.

4) General Motors' resized, redesigned and greatly improved 2018 Chevy Traverse and GMC Terrain crossovers make their first Canadian appearance, while the Cadillac Division's Escala Concept graces the show with its flagship size and style.

5) Genesis, Hyundai's newly-minted premium adversary for Lexus, Mercedes, et al will also be showing a design study, the brand's "New York Concept" sedan.

If the strides made by Hyundai's Elantra sedan are an indication, the next Elantra GT hatch should be an excellent alternative to Mazda 3s and VW Golfs. Fingers crossed for a GT equivalent to the sedan's 201hp Sport variant.

6) Speaking of sporty — Kia's new rear (or all) wheel-drive Stinger is an unexpected shot across the bow of models like BMW's 3 Series and Infiniti's Q50. It'll be accompanied by the latest Cadenza, Kia's near-luxury large sedan.

7) Don't overlook Mazda's subtly but critically redesigned CX-5, bound to continue its role as a significant player in the compact crossover segment.

8) Mercedes goes on an AMG bender in Toronto: AMG GT C, AMG GT R and E63 AMG — yes, please. Any or all would be fine.

9) It's a pair of concepts making their Canadian debut for Nissan; the company's Vmotion 2.0 and Infiniti QX50 Concepts. Check out Nissan's new Qashqai crossover while you're there.

10) Who needs a 440hp compact crossover? Porsche buyers! Enter the Macan Turbo Performance Package…

11) Subaru's last seven-seat crossover (the Tribeca) missed the mark — the Viziv-7 Concept shows the scale, if not necessarily the styling, of the constellation brand's all-new atonement for that misstep, possibly to be named Ascent.

12) Riding a completely new platform, Toyota's Camry promises a newly invigorated driving experience. It certainly introduces some conversation-inducing styling features to what has generally been a conservative model line. Styling is also the name of the game at Lexus, which will be showing off its LF-FC and UX concepts here.

13) Both long awaited and long wheelbase — Volkswagen finally unveils the North American-specific stretched version of the company's global Tiguan crossover, which offers third-row seating for the first time.

14) What is it with Volvo and sexy wagons? Canadians get it. Americans have to special order Volvo's V90 in non-Cross Country guise.

But in the Great White North, Volvo will offer us the added style and aggression of the V90 R-Design. Further proof that it's better on this side of the border.

SHOW WEATHER WHO'S BOSS.

THE AWD CX-SERIES Drive with added confidence in virtually any weather with a new Mazda CX-Series vehicle with available predictive i-ACTIV AWD – tech that checks road conditions 200 times per second and adjusts for optimal control.

0% PURCHASE FINANCING▼ ON SELECT NEW MAZDA MODELS

+ WINTER TIRE CREDIT♦

+ NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS‡ ON PURCHASE FINANCING OFFERS ON ALL NEW MAZDA MODELS

GT model shown with available accessory roof rack

2016.5 CX-5 GX

LEASE FROM $119† at 0.99% APR bi-weekly for 60 months, with $1,295 down. Excludes HST.

GT model shown

2016 CX-9 GS

LEASE FROM $199† at 3.00% APR bi-weekly for 60 months, with $1,595 down. Excludes HST.

2017 MAZDA3 GX

LEASE FROM $93† at 1.49% APR bi-weekly for 60 months, with $1,495 down. Excludes HST.

GT model shown

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CANADA'S ONLY UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY

STANDARD ON ALL NEW MODELS.

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DRIVING MATTERS mazda.ca zoom-zoom

▼0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2016, 2016.5 and 2017 Mazda models. **NOTE:** 0% Purchase Financing not available on 2016 MX-5 and CX-9, 2017 CX-3, Mazda6, MX-5 and CX-9 models. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $17,688 for the new 2017 Mazda3 GX (D4XK67AA00) with a financed amount of $18,000, the cost of borrowing for a 36-month term is $0, monthly payment is $500, total finance obligation is $18,000. Offer includes freight and P.D.E. of $1,695, $10 OMVIC fee, $23.75 Tire Stewardship Fee and $59.38 PPSA. Offer excludes HST. ♦Winter Tire Credit Offer is available to qualifying retail customers who cash purchase/finance/lease a select new, in-stock 2016, 2016.5 and 2017 Mazda model from an authorized Mazda dealer in Canada between February 1 – 28, 2017. Winter Tire Credit amounts vary by model: $300 for all 2016 and 2017 Mazda3/Mazda3 Sport, all 2016 and 2017 CX-3, all 2016 and 2016.5 CX-5, all 2016 and 2017 CX-9, and all 2017 MX-5 & MX-5 RF; $500 for all 2016 and 2017 Mazda5; $600 for all 2016 and 2017 Mazda6. Maximum $1,000 for all 2016 MX-5 models. Customer can substitute a cash discount (up to $1,000 depending on model). Cash discount substitute applied before taxes. Wheels and installation extra. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. ‡No Payments for 90 Days (payment deferral) offer is available on all new in-stock 2016, 2016.5 and 2017 Mazda vehicles, and only applies to purchase finance offers on approved credit. No interest fees will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract and the contract will be extended consequently. After this period, interest fees will begin to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal after the 90th day and interest monthly over the term of the contract. Customers are responsible for the down payment (if applicable), license, and insurance payment upon contract signing. Deferral is not available on 96-month contracts. Offer period February 1 – 28, 2017. †Offer available on retail leases of new 2017 CX-3 GX (HV3XB7AA00)/2016.5 CX-5 GX (NVXK66AA50)/2016 CX-9 GS (0VSM86AA00)/2017 Mazda3 GX (D4XK67AA00) with a lease APR of 2.49%/0.99%/3.00%/1.49% and 130/130/130/130 bi-weekly payments of $109/$119/$199/$93 for 60/60/60/60 months, the total lease obligation is $15,731/$16,775/$27,462/$13,553, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of $1,595/$1,295/$1,595/$1,495. As shown, Offered Pricing for new 2017 CX-3 GT (HXTK87AA00)/2016.5 CX-5 GT (NXTL86AA50)/2016 CX-9 GT (0XTM86AA00)/2017 Mazda3 GT (D4TL67AA00) with a lease APR of 2.49%/0.99%/3.00%/1.49% and 130/130/130/130 bi-weekly payments of $157/$178/$262/$137 for 60/60/60/60 months, the total lease obligation is $21,998/$24,426/$35,661/$19,366, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of $1,595/$1,295/$1,595/$1,495. **NOTE:** 2017 CX-3 lease offers include $900 lease cash, 2016.5 CX-5 lease offers include $1,750 lease cash, 2016 CX-9 lease offers include $1,050 lease cash and 2017 Mazda3 GX/GT lease offers include $500/$650 lease cash. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of $1,895/$1,895/$1,895/$1,695, $10 OMVIC fee (all models), $23.75 Tire Stewardship Fee (all models), and $100 Air Conditioning charge (where applicable). PPSA of $90.95/$90.95/$90.95/$90.95 and first monthly payment are due at lease inception. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies (12¢ per km for CX-9 models). Offers exclude HST. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. *To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid February 1 – 28, 2017, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Toronto metro

Start your engines

Canadian International AutoShow • February 17 - 26 • Metro Toronto Convention Centre

INSIDE: The AutoShow survival guide, best of family vehicles, and more

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